AMAR CHITRA KATHA

3-IN-1

YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES

• SURJYA SEN • BHAGAT SINGH • BAGHA JATIN

VOL 10049

The route to your roots

SURJYA SEN

On the night of April 18, 1930, 'Masterda' Surjya Sen, his five friends, and an army of young boys went into battle in Chittagong, ready to die for freedom and dignity. They attacked the British armouries and cut Chittagong off from the rest of British-ruled India. Masterda hoisted the Indian tricolour and declared an Indian Republic. But they were unlucky. One of the armouries had guns but no ammunition. And the British were ready to retaliate. How long could this ill-equipped and tiny group hold on?

Surjya Sen's battle pitted a small handful against the mighty British Empire. Their extraordinary gesture of courage and defiance inspired other freedom fighters, long after they were gone.

The primary sources for this title were
Do or Die: The Chittagong Uprising 1930–34 by Manini Chatterjee
Easter Rebellion in India: The Chittagong Uprising by I. Mallikarjuna Sharma

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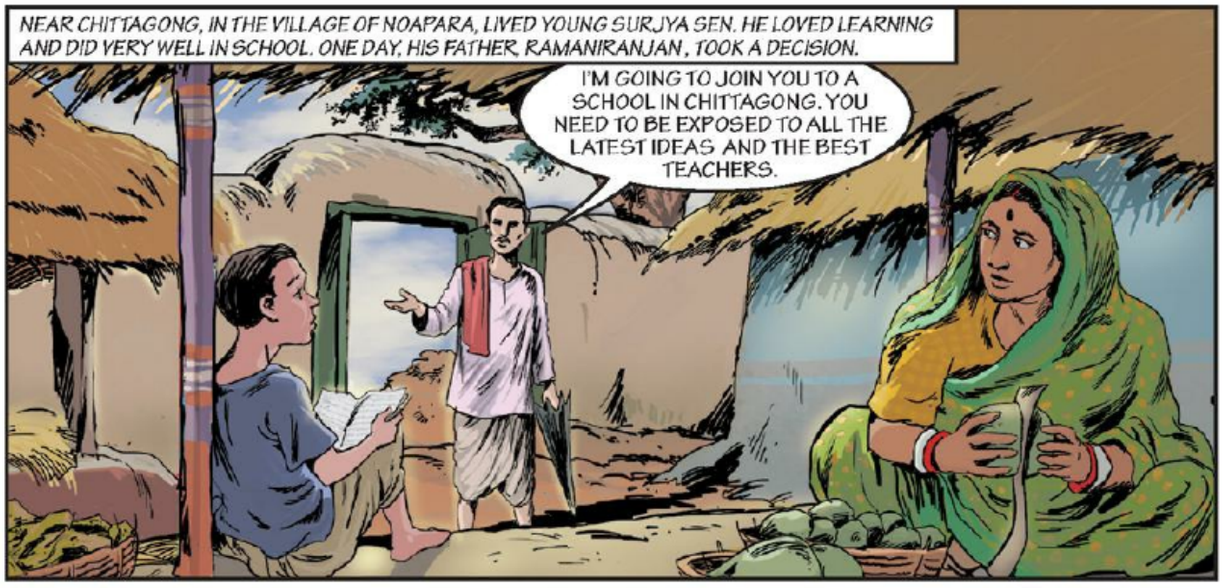
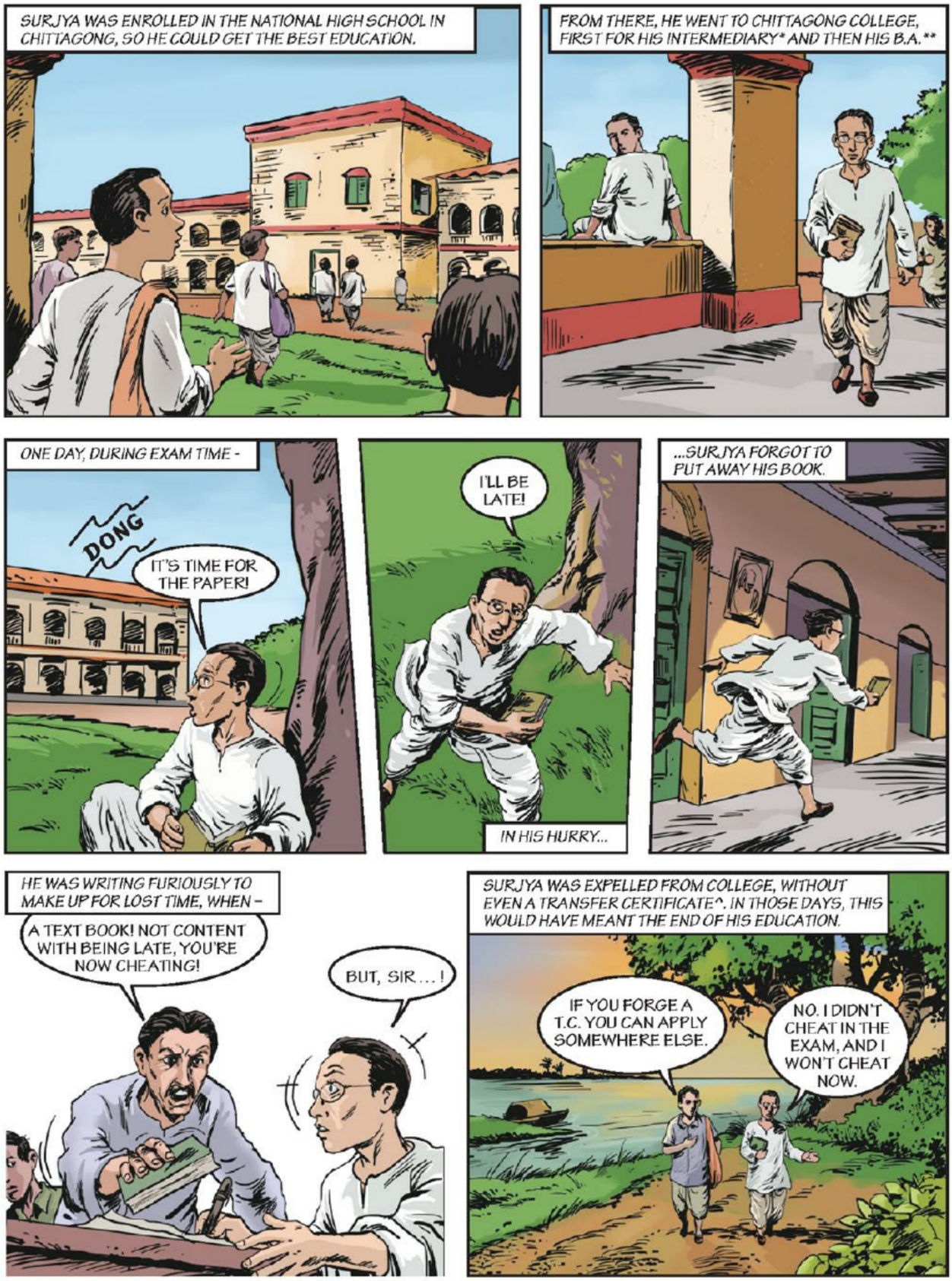
SURJYA SEN

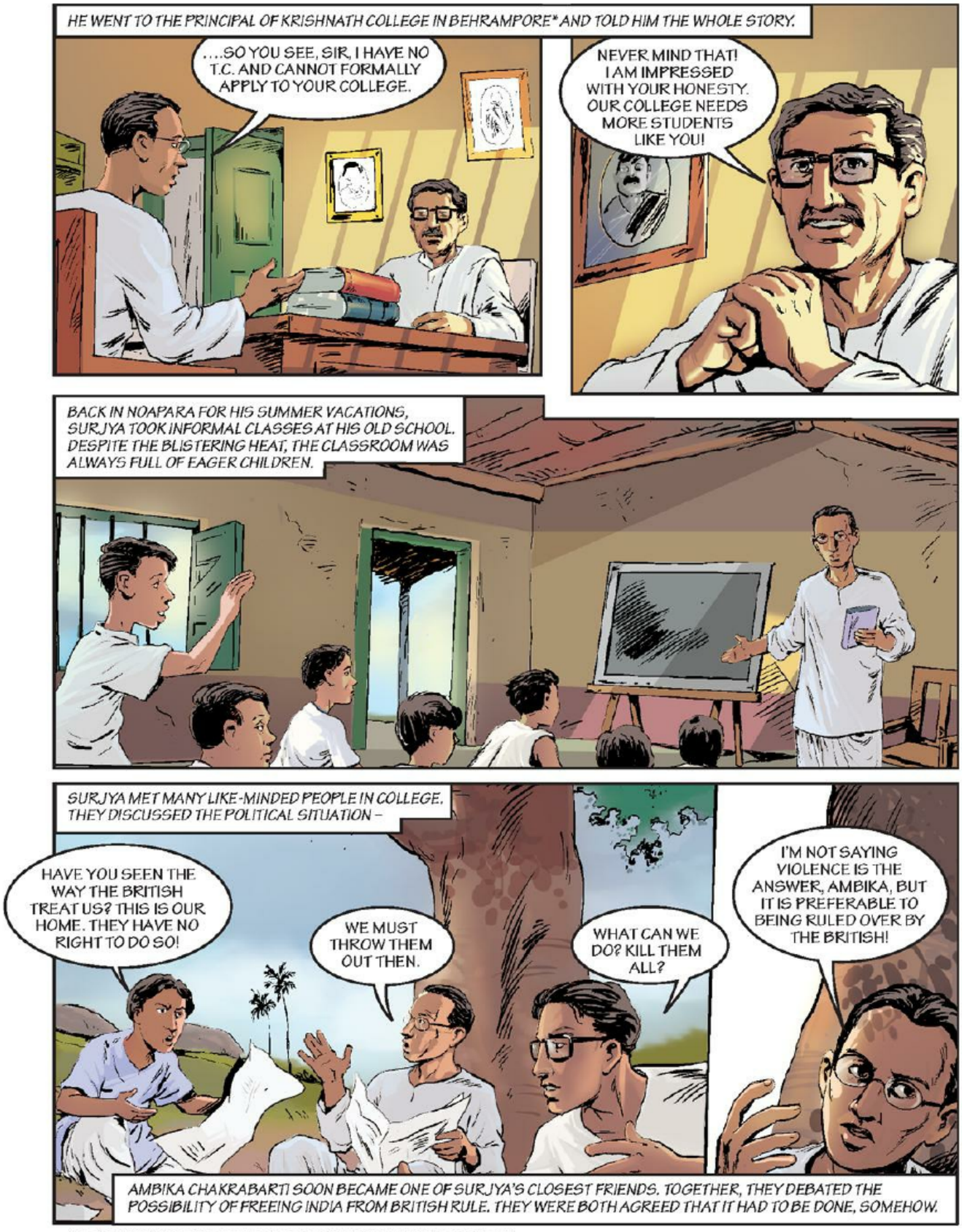
IT WAS 1910. INDIA WAS UNDER BRITISH RULE, BUT THE MURMURS OF DISCONTENT WERE CLEARLY AUDIBLE. ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF THE BAY OF BENGAL, LAY THE INDIAN PORT OF CHITTAGONG*. BEING A CENTRE FOR TRADE AND TRAVEL, CHITTAGONG WAS AT THE CONFLUENCE OF MANY CULTURES. ITS PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS EXPOSED TO NEW IDEAS, DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS. THE INTELLECTUALS CONSTANTLY DISCUSSED THE INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION OF BRITISH RULE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FREEDOM FROM IT.



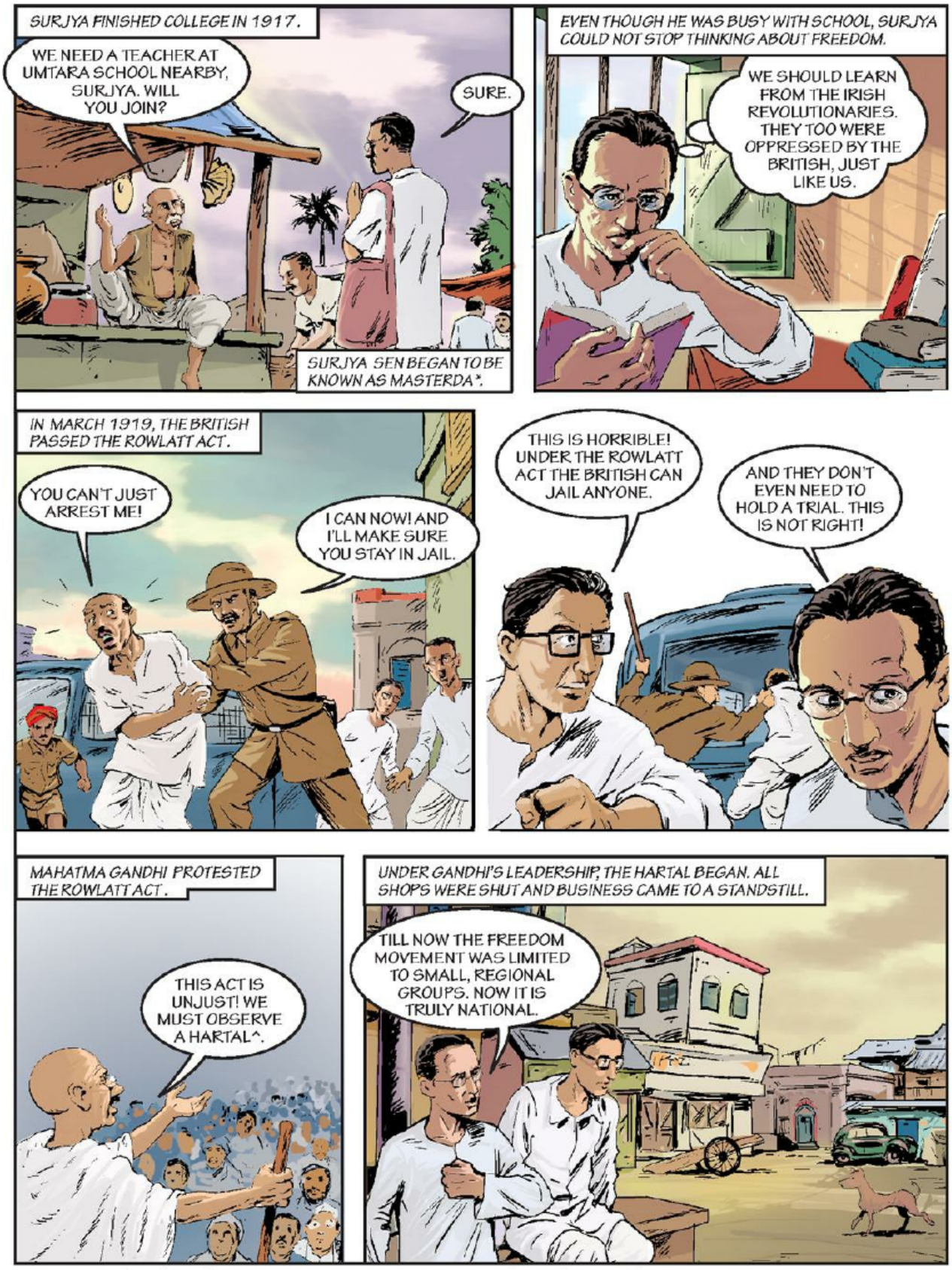
* CHITTAGONG IS NOW IN BANGLADESH.



*WHAT WE NOW CALL THE 11TH AND 12TH STANDARD OF SCHOOL. **BACHELOR OF ARTS
^A T.C. OR TRANSFER CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO ANY NEW INSTITUTION.

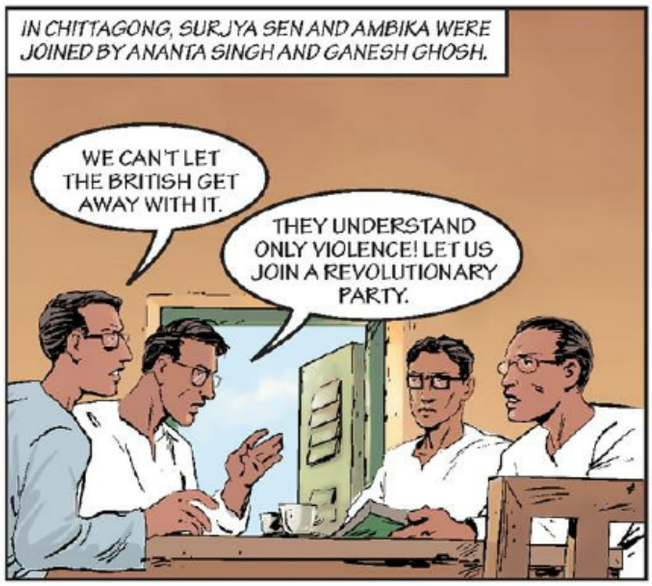


*A TOWN IN MURSHIDABAD DISTRICT, IN MODERN WEST BENGAL.

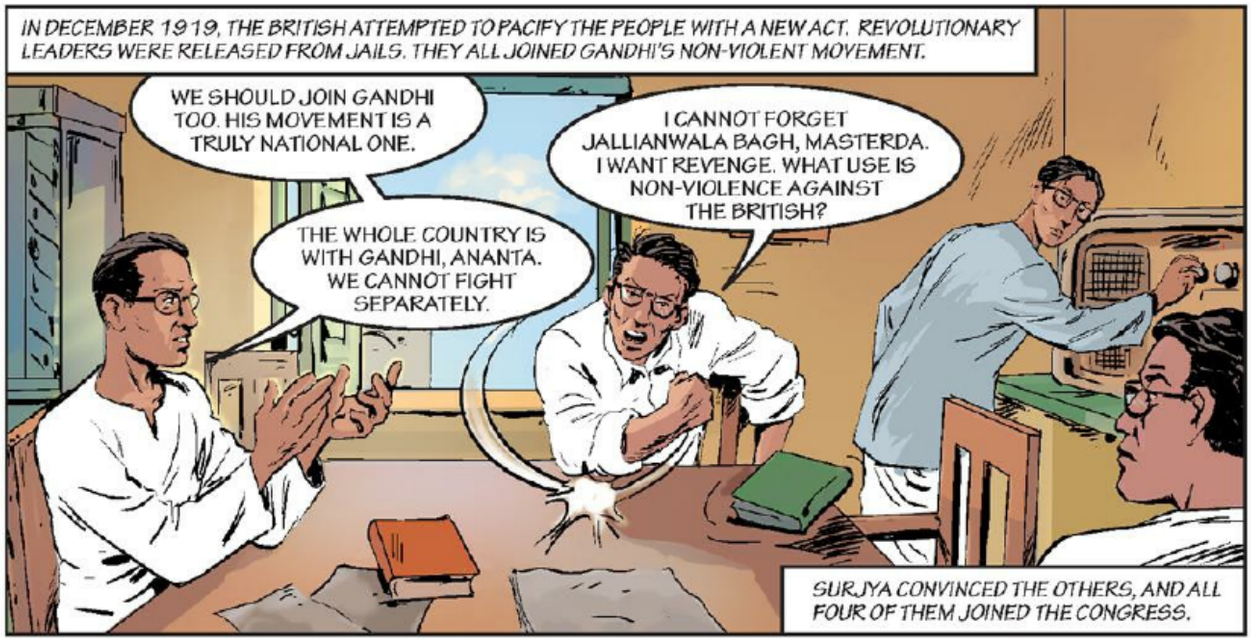


*DA IS A SHORT FORM FOR DADA WHICH IS A RESPECTFUL TERM FOR AN OLDER BROTHER, IN BENGALI.
^STRIKE

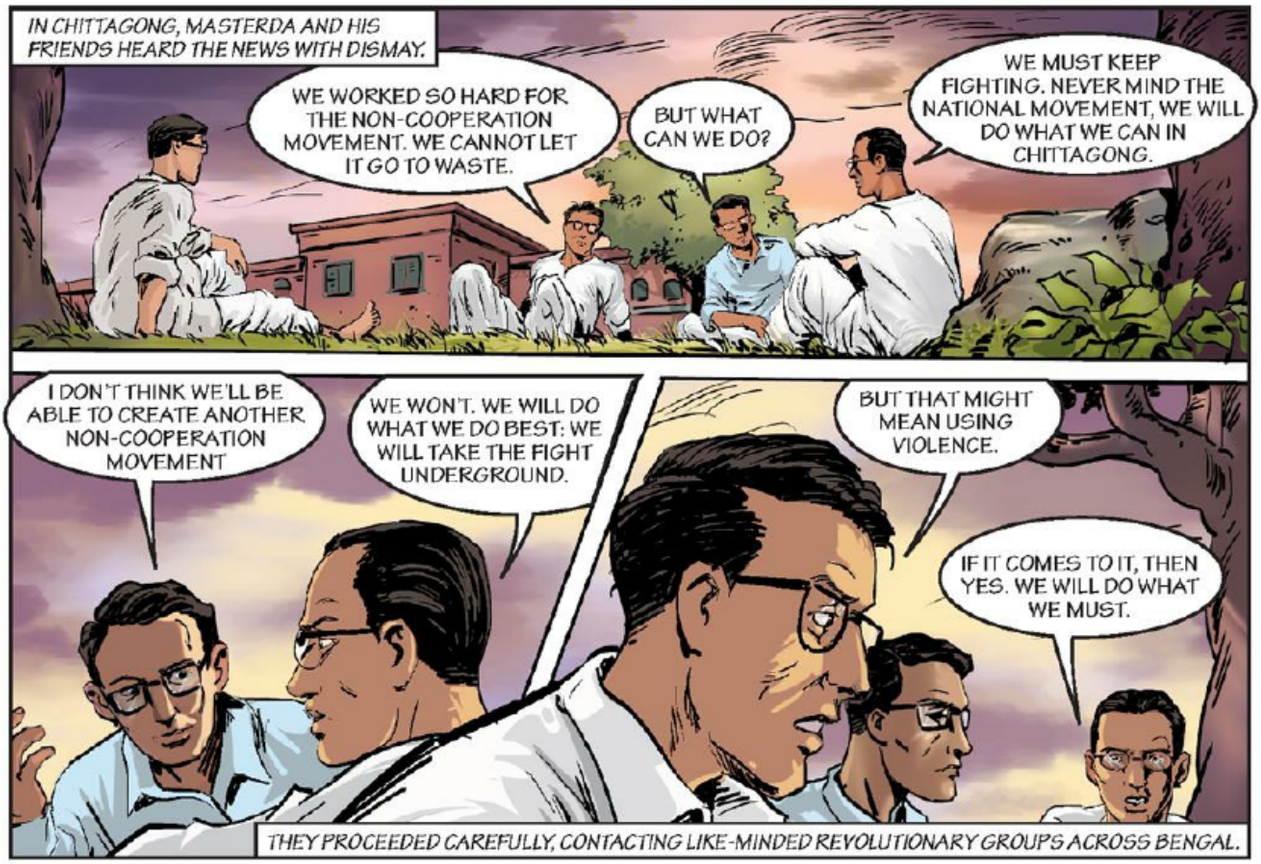
THE BRITISH REACTED WITH FORCE. THOUSANDS OF REVOLUTIONARIES WERE IMPRISONED. THEN, ON THE 13TH OF APRIL, 1919, THE BRITISH MASSACRED UNNUMBERED INNOCENT PEOPLE IN JALLIANWALA BAGH.
THE NEWS SHOCKED THE ENTIRE NATION.


IN CHITTAGONG, SURJYA SEN AND AMBIKA WERE JOINED BY ANANTA SINGH AND GANESH GHOSH.
WE CAN'T LET THE BRITISH GET AWAY WITH IT.
THEY UNDERSTAND ONLY VIOLENCE! LET US JOIN A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.

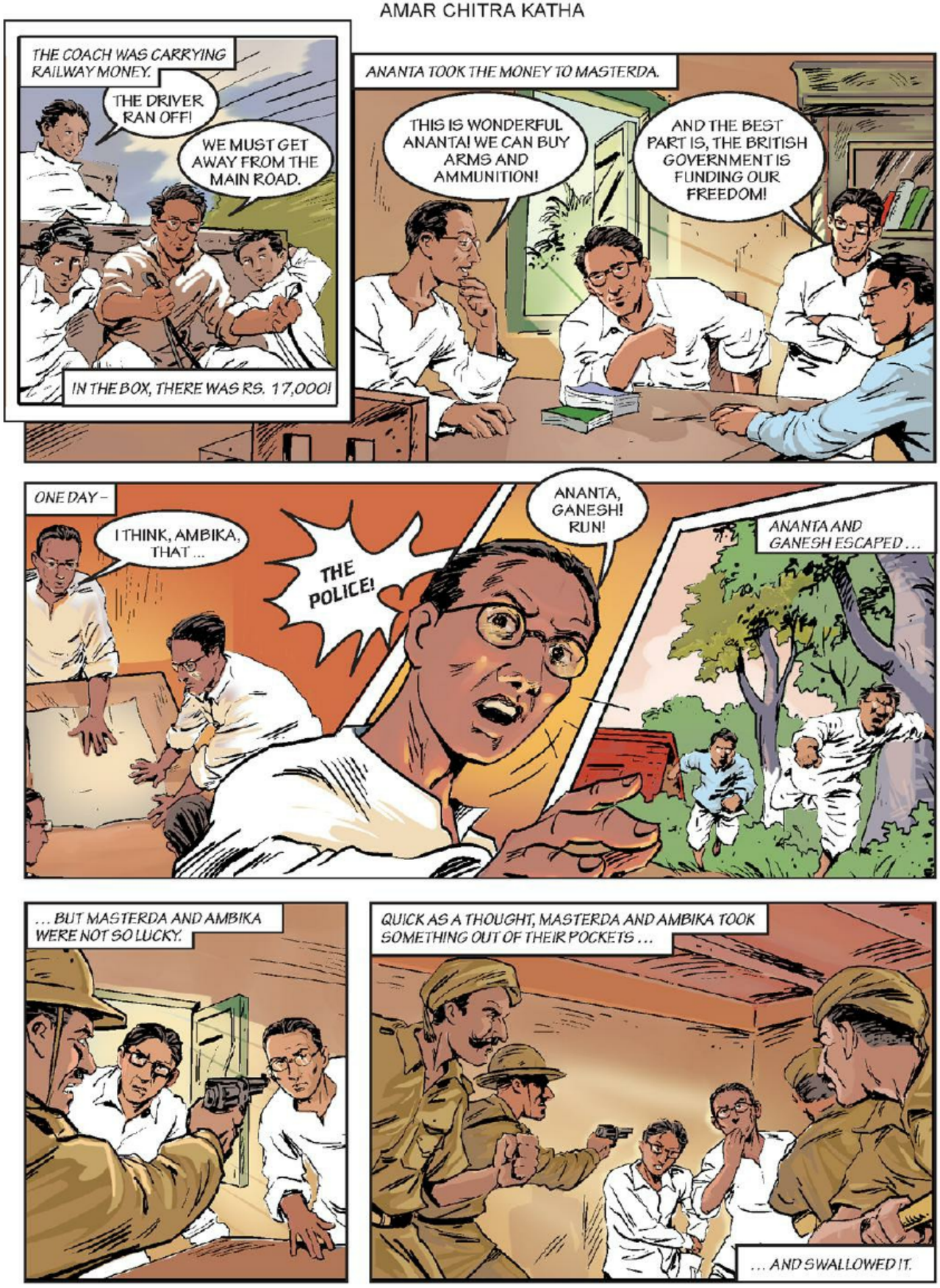
WHICH ONE, SURJYA, THE JUGANTAR, OR THE ANUSHILAN SAMITI?
I SAY THE JUGANTAR. IT IS SMALLER, AND WE WILL GET MORE FREEDOM TO ACT AS WE CHOOSE.
ALL FOUR OF THEM JOINED THE JUGANTAR.


IN DECEMBER 1919, THE BRITISH ATTEMPTED TO PACIFY THE PEOPLE WITH A NEW ACT. REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS WERE RELEASED FROM JAILS. THEY ALL JOINED GANDHI'S NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENT.
WE SHOULD JOIN GANDHI TOO. HIS MOVEMENT IS A TRULY NATIONAL ONE.
THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS WITH GANDHI, ANANTA. WE CANNOT FIGHT SEPARATELY.
I CANNOT FORGET JALLIANWALA BAGH, MASTERDA. I WANT REVENGE. WHAT USE IS NON-VIOLENCE AGAINST THE BRITISH?
SURJYA CONVINCED THE OTHERS, AND ALL FOUR OF THEM JOINED THE CONGRESS.

THEY WERE SOON ABSORBED IN THE MOVEMENT. IN 1921 –
DID YOU READ 'YOUNG INDIA', ANANTA? GANDHI HAS WRITTEN, PRAISING YOUR PATRIOTISM IN ORGANISING THE RAILWAY WORKERS' STRIKE.
PERHAPS PEACEFUL MEANS WILL TRULY BRING US INDEPENDENCE, MASTERDA.
BUT IN FEBRUARY 1922, THEY WERE TO SUFFER A BITTER SETBACK.
IT BEGAN WHEN POLICEMEN IN A VILLAGE CALLED CHAURI CHAURA IN U.P., SHOT AND KILLED SOME PROTESTERS. A FURIOUS MOB SET FIRE TO THE POLICE STATION.
LONG LIVE MAHATMA GANDHI!
23 POLICEMEN WERE TRAPPED INSIDE AND BURNT TO DEATH.
SHOCKED AND GRIEVED, GANDHI CALLED OFF THE ENTIRE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT.
BY TURNING TO VIOLENCE, WE HAVE COMMITTED A VERY GRAVE CRIME. WE CAN NO LONGER FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM.


IN CHITTAGONG, MASTERDA AND HIS FRIENDS HEARD THE NEWS WITH DISMAY.
WE WORKED SO HARD FOR THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT. WE CANNOT LET IT GO TO WASTE.
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
WE MUST KEEP FIGHTING. NEVER MIND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN IN CHITTAGONG.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE ANOTHER NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT
WE WON'T. WE WILL DO WHAT WE DO BEST: WE WILL TAKE THE FIGHT UNDERGROUND.
BUT THAT MIGHT MEAN USING VIOLENCE.
IF IT COMES TO IT, THEN YES. WE WILL DO WHAT WE MUST.
THEY PROCEEDED CAREFULLY, CONTACTING LIKE-MINDED REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS ACROSS BENGAL.

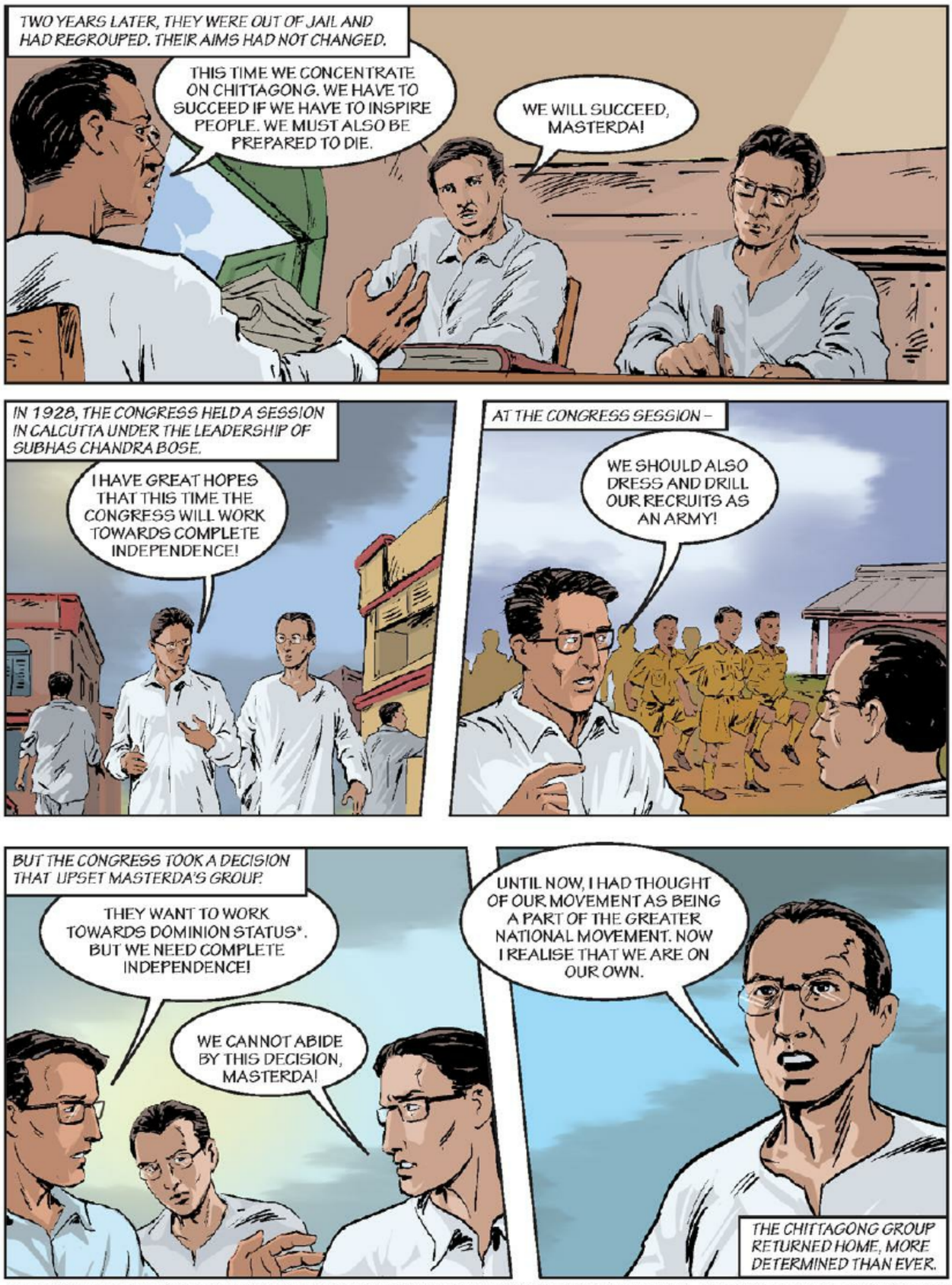
THEY NEEDED FUNDS AND PLANNED A HEIST.
HALT!


THE COACH WAS CARRYING RAILWAY MONEY.
THE DRIVER RAN OFF!
WE MUST GET AWAY FROM THE MAIN ROAD.
IN THE BOX, THERE WAS RS. 17,000!
ANANTA TOOK THE MONEY TO MASTERDA.
THIS IS WONDERFUL ANANTA! WE CAN BUY ARMS AND AMMUNITION!
AND THE BEST PART IS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS FUNDING OUR FREEDOM!
ONE DAY –
I THINK, AMBIKA, THAT ...
THE POLICE!
ANANTA, GANESH! RUN!
ANANTA AND GANESH ESCAPED ...
... BUT MASTERDA AND AMBIKA WERE NOT SO LUCKY.
QUICK AS A THOUGHT, MASTERDA AND AMBIKA TOOK SOMETHING OUT OF THEIR POCKETS ...
... AND SWALLOWED IT.

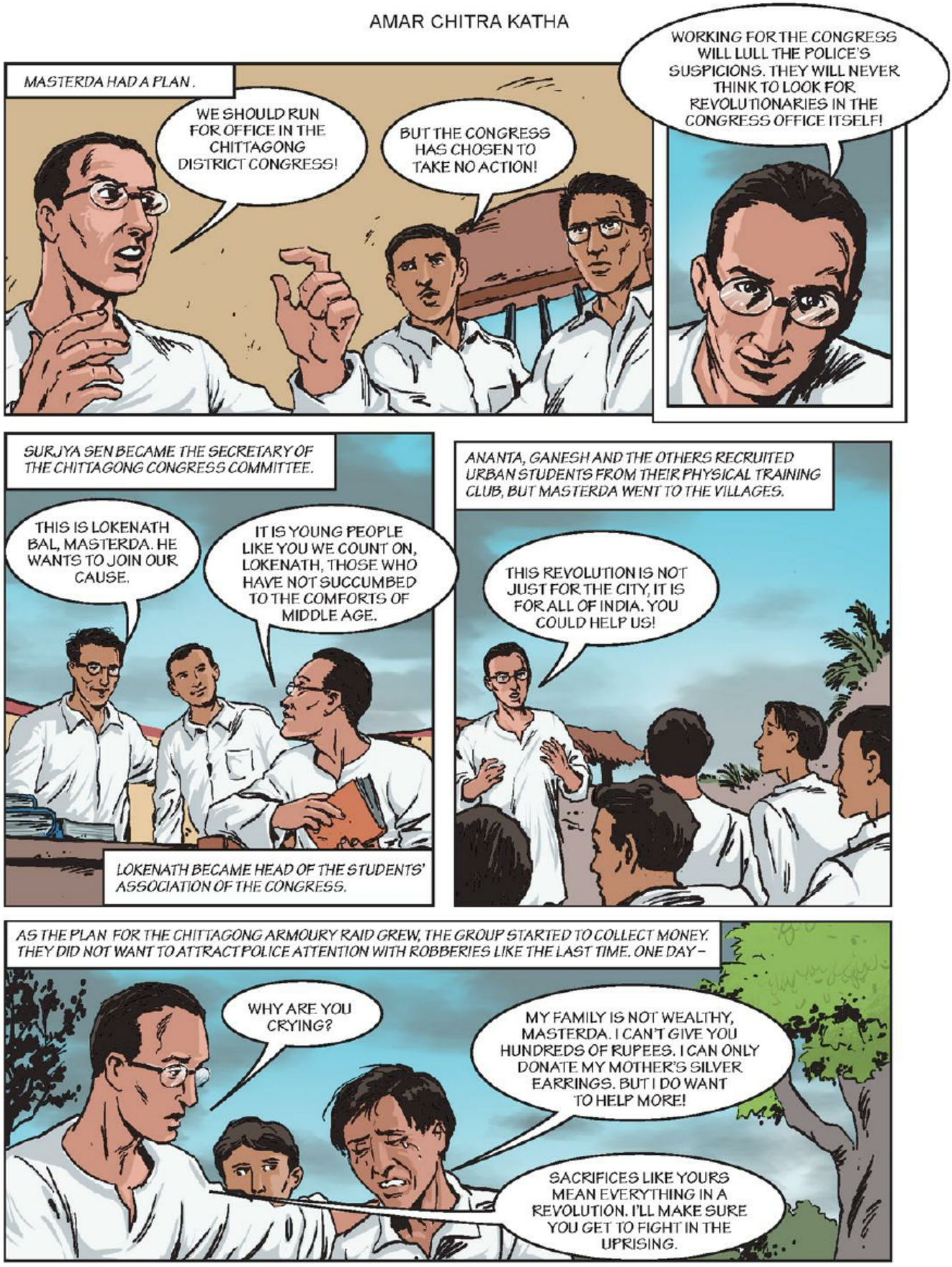
THEY COLLAPSED IMMEDIATELY.
THEY SWALLOWED CYANIDE!
THESE REVOLUTIONARIES ALWAYS PREFER DEATH TO IMPRISONMENT.
WELL, WE'D BETTER TAKE THEM TO THE MORGUE.
WAIT, HE'S STILL ALIVE!
THEY WERE RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL.
THE CYANIDE CAPSULES HAD BEEN SPURIOUS*. MASTERDA AND AMBIKA WERE VERY ILL BUT THEY WERE ALIVE.
GROAN!
AS SOON AS THEY RECOVERED, THEY WERE ARRESTED. AT THEIR TRIAL –
IN THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE, THIS COURT FINDS YOU NOT GUILTY.
THE GROUP WAS SOON BACK, PLANNING. THEY WERE JOINED BY NIRMAL SEN.
WE SHOULD PLAN A SERIES OF SMALL UPRISINGS, I THINK.
YOU'RE RIGHT MASTERDA, WE CAN SET UP A NETWORK OF REBELS ACROSS BENGAL. WE CAN SEND THEM MONEY AND ARMS.
WE CAN PLAN IT SO THE BRITISH WILL NEVER GUESS WHERE THE REBELLION WILL BE NEXT.

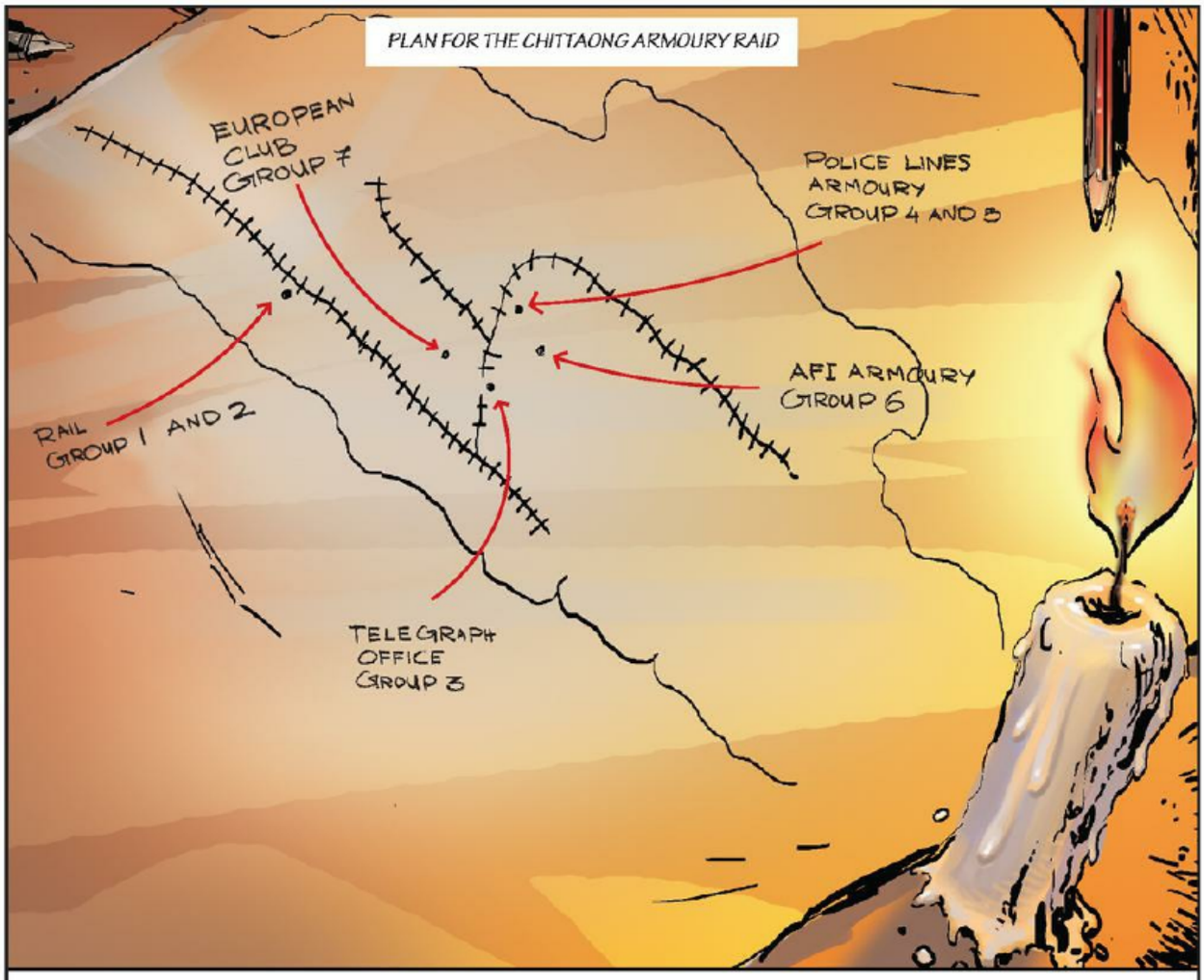
*IMPURE

THEY STARTED RECRUITING AND DRILLING HARD. ANANTA RAN A PHYSICAL TRAINING CLUB.
DO YOU THINK SOME OF YOUR STUDENTS COULD JOIN US, ANANTA?
I'M SURE THEY WOULD! THEY ARE FIERY AND ENTHUSIASTIC.
MANY OF THE BOYS WERE EXCITED TO JOIN. ANANTA TRAINED THEM HARD, WHILE MASTERDA AND THE OTHERS BUILT UP A NETWORK OF ARMS DEALERS AND BOMB MAKERS.
IN 1924, THE BRITISH DECIDED THEY HAD TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE REVOLUTIONARIES.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, ANANTA SINGH.
THOUGH THE OTHERS WERE ALSO SOON IN JAIL, MASTERDA MANAGED TO EVADE ARREST FOR A WHILE.
HE TRAVELLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY MEETING LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE.
YES, AN INDIAN REPUBLICAN ARMY. THAT'S WHAT WE NEED!
AND THEN, ON 8TH OCTOBER, 1926, WHILE IN CALCUTTA –
STOP! WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED.
SURJYA SEN WAS ARRESTED.
YOU HAVE BEEN ON OUR LIST AS A DANGEROUS ABSCONDER FOR MANY YEARS NOW.



** DOMINION STATUS WOULD HAVE ALLOWED INDIANS TO RULE THEMSELVES, BUT ONLY PARTLY – THEY WOULD STILL OFFICIALLY BE A PART OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.*


MASTERDA HAD A PLAN.
WE SHOULD RUN FOR OFFICE IN THE CHITTAGONG DISTRICT CONGRESS!
BUT THE CONGRESS HAS CHOSEN TO TAKE NO ACTION!
WORKING FOR THE CONGRESS WILL LULL THE POLICE'S SUSPICIONS. THEY WILL NEVER THINK TO LOOK FOR REVOLUTIONARIES IN THE CONGRESS OFFICE ITSELF!
SURJYA SEN BECAME THE SECRETARY OF THE CHITTAGONG CONGRESS COMMITTEE.
THIS IS LOKENATH BAL, MASTERDA. HE WANTS TO JOIN OUR CAUSE.
IT IS YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU WE COUNT ON, LOKENATH, THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SUCCUMBED TO THE COMFORTS OF MIDDLE AGE.
LOKENATH BECAME HEAD OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE CONGRESS.
ANANTA, GANESH AND THE OTHERS RECRUITED URBAN STUDENTS FROM THEIR PHYSICAL TRAINING CLUB, BUT MASTERDA WENT TO THE VILLAGES.
THIS REVOLUTION IS NOT JUST FOR THE CITY, IT IS FOR ALL OF INDIA. YOU COULD HELP US!
AS THE PLAN FOR THE CHITTAGONG ARMOURY RAID GREW, THE GROUP STARTED TO COLLECT MONEY. THEY DID NOT WANT TO ATTRACT POLICE ATTENTION WITH ROBBERIES LIKE THE LAST TIME. ONE DAY –
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
MY FAMILY IS NOT WEALTHY, MASTERDA. I CAN'T GIVE YOU HUNDREDS OF RUPEES. I CAN ONLY DONATE MY MOTHER'S SILVER EARRINGS. BUT I DO WANT TO HELP MORE!
SACRIFICES LIKE YOURS MEAN EVERYTHING IN A REVOLUTION. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET TO FIGHT IN THE UPRISING.



GROUP 1
TASK: DESTROYING THE RAILWAY LINES AND TELEGRAPH LINES NEAR DHOOM

GROUP 2
TASK: ATTACKING THE RAILWAY LINES NEAR NANGALKOTE RAILWAY STATION

GROUP 3
LED BY: AMBIKA CHAKRABARTI
TASK: ATTACKING TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE

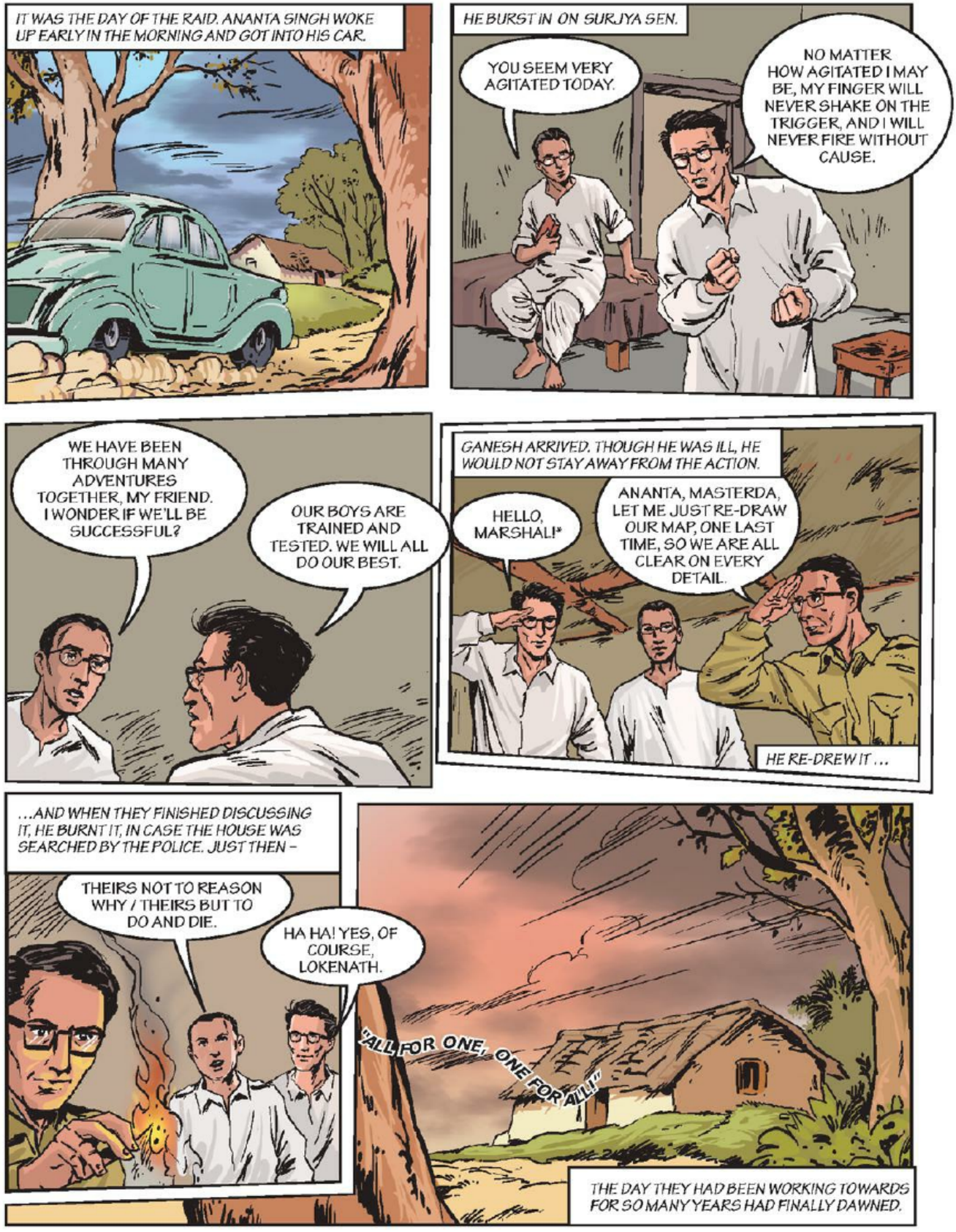
GROUP 4
LED BY: GANESH GHOSH AND ANANTA SINGH
TASK: ATTACKING THE POLICE LINES ARMOURY
TIME: 5-10 MINS AFTER GROUP 3

GROUP 5
LED BY: SURJYA SEN
TASK: WAITING IN A FIELD NEAR THE POLICE LINES ARMOURY. RUSHING IN TO SUPPORT GROUP 4, AS SOON AS THEY WERE IN.

GROUP 6
LED BY: LOKENATH BAL AND NIRMAL SEN
TASK: ATTACKING THE AFI (AUXILIARY FORCES OF INDIA) ARMOURY
TIME: SAME TIME AS GROUP 4

GROUP 7
TASK: ATTACKING THE EUROPEAN CLUB

ALL THE GROUPS WERE TO REPORT TO MASTERDA AT THE POLICE LINES ARMOURY WHEN THEY FINISHED THEIR TASKS. USING THAT AS THEIR HEADQUARTERS, THE GROUP WOULD KEEP THE BRITISH OUT OF CHITTAGONG AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. THEY HOPED TO DISTRIBUTE ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM THE ARMOURY TO ORDINARY PEOPLE AND ASK THEM TO FIGHT THE BRITISH TOO.



*A MARSHAL OR FIELD MARSHAL IS THE HIGHEST ARMY RANK DURING WARTIME. GANESH WAS THE CHIEF LEADER OF THEIR ARMY.

ALL DAY, MASTERDA SAT IN THE CONGRESS OFFICE, ACTING COMPLETELY NORMAL.
NIRMALDA, ARE WE READY?
WATCHES HAVE BEEN SYNCHRONISED. WE BEGIN AT 7:30 PM SHARP.
BUT AT 7:30 IN THE EVENING –
THERE IS SOME ENGINE PROBLEM IN THE TWO TAXIS I'D PLANNED TO USE.
WE'LL POSTPONE THE PLAN TO 9:30.
AT 9:30 THE FIRST GROUP WENT TO WORK.
A GOODS TRAIN CAME BY AND WAS DERAILED.
S-S-SCREEECH.
GOOD. NO EXTRA POLICE CAN BE SENT TO CHITTAGONG NOW!
AT 9:45, AMBIKA'S GROUP RAN INTO THE TELEGRAPH BUILDING.
THEY KNOCKED OUT THE OPERATOR WITH CHLOROFORM ...
... AND THEN REMOVED HIM FROM THE BUILDING.
THEY BROKE THE SWITCHBOARD WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER.
THEN THEY POURED PETROL OVER IT, AND SET IT ON FIRE

*AUXILIARY FORCES OF INDIA

THERE WAS ANOTHER SMALL GRILL DOOR. THEY BATTERED IT WITH THEIR HAMMERS UNTIL IT BROKE.
VANDE MATARAM!
ALSO AT 9:50, MASTERDA AND HIS TEAM STOOD WAITING IN A FIELD NEAR THE POLICE LINES.
THERE ARE GANESH AND ANANTA, RIGHT ON TIME!
ANANTA AND GANESH'S TEAM REACHED THE POLICE ARMOURY.
SENTRY AT THE GATE. RELEASE SAFETY.
SIX PEOPLE OBEYED.
CLICK!
THE SENTRY HEARD THEM.
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
SIMULTANEOUSLY, ANANTA AND GANESH FIRED.
BANG
BANG

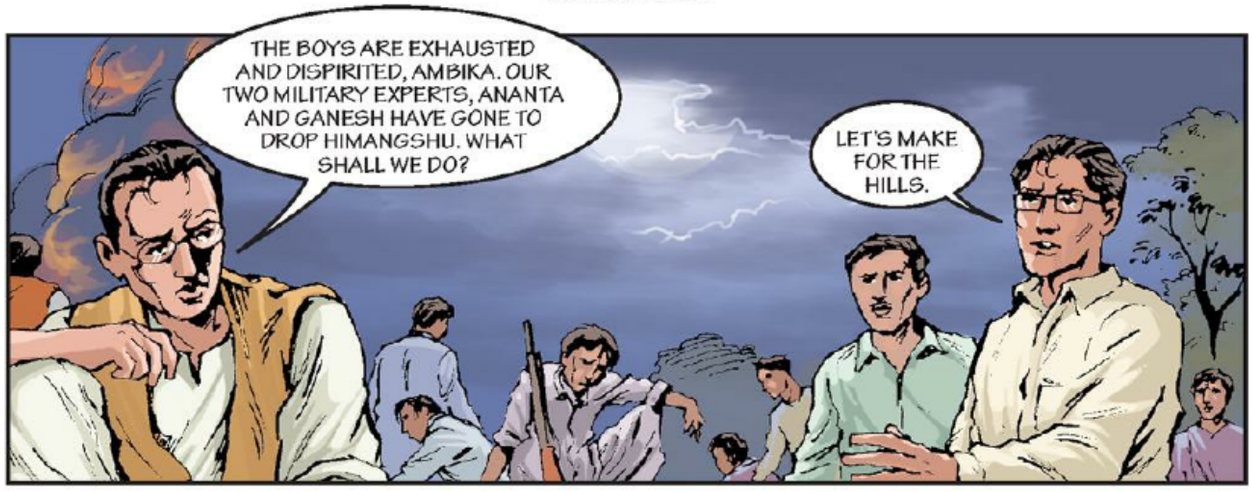
*HINDI, MEANING: MOVE, RUN, SAVE YOURSELVES. GANDHI'S NATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

* THE BRITISH FLAG

THE GROUP FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUB RETURNED, DISAPPOINTED: THE CLUB HAD BEEN EMPTY, SINCE THE BRITISH WERE AT HOME CELEBRATING EASTER. AND GANESH'S ILLNESS HAD GOT WORSE.
WE MUST SEND REINFORCEMENTS TO HELP NIRMALDA AND LOKENATH.
AND THEY WILL NEED HELP TRANSPORTING THEIR WEAPONS HERE.
YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING, GANESH. YOU HAD BETTER NOT GO.
I'LL GO. I'LL TAKE HIMANSHU, TEGRA, AND MANORANJAN ALONG.
ANANTA AND HIS GROUP DROVE TO THE AFI ARMOURY. INSIDE, THEY WERE SURPRISED TO SEE HOW GLOOMY EVERYONE LOOKED.
VANDE MATARAM! LET'S TAKE THESE AND LEAVE!
THESE ARMS ARE USELESS. THE AMMUNITION ISN'T HERE.
AND WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED BY THE BRITISH. WE KILLED A FEW MEN, BUT THE REST FLED. THEY'LL SOON BE BACK WITH REINFORCEMENTS.
JUST THEN, A BRITISH CAR DROVE BY. THE BOYS FIRED AT IT. THE DRIVER WAS INJURED BUT TWO MEN, INCLUDING A BRITISH CAPTAIN, TAITT, WERE UNHARMED.
THEY DROVE TO THE NEAREST RAILWAY STATION. THEN THEY WENT TO A BRITISH SHIP, FROM WHERE THEY WIRED FOR HELP.

WE MUST GET BACK TO MASTERDA NOW. WE CAN DO NOTHING HERE – THE BRITISH WILL BE BACK, AND WE HAVE NO AMMUNITION.
BACK IN THE POLICE ARMOURY, THEY TOLD MASTERDA THE NEWS. ANANTA WAS ESPECIALLY GLOOMY.
OUR FAILURE TO REALISE THAT THE AMMUNITION WOULDN'T BE STORED WITH THE ARMS WILL MOCK US TO THE END OF HISTORY!
CALM DOWN, ANANTA. WE'LL THINK OF A NEW STRATEGY.
BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR THINKING. SHOTS RANG OUT FROM OUTSIDE.
THE BRITISH!
OUR ONLY ADVANTAGE LIES IN THE FACT THAT WE ARE INSIDE HERE, WHILE OUR ENEMY IS OUTDOORS.
THE REVOLUTIONARIES FIRED RAPIDLY.
FINALLY, THERE WAS SILENCE OUTSIDE.
THEY'VE STOPPED.
WE MUST LEAVE. THEY WILL SOON RETURN WITH REINFORCEMENTS.

WE CANNOT LAST MUCH LONGER. THE BRITISH WILL BE BACK SOON. WHAT CAN OUR MUSKETS DO AGAINST THEIR MACHINE GUNS?
SURJYA SEN STOOD BEFORE THE FLAG, AND PROCLAIMED THE FORMATION OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.
THE OPPRESSIVE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT HAS CEASED TO EXIST. THE NATIONAL FLAG IS FLYING HIGH. IT IS OUR DUTY TO DEFEND IT WITH OUR LIFE AND BLOOD.
VANDE MATARAM!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN DECLARED IN BRITISH INDIA. WHEN THEY WERE DONE, MASTERDA ORDERED THEM TO LEAVE. ANANTA ORDERED SOME BOYS TO DOUSE THE ARMOURY IN PETROL AND SET IT ON FIRE.
SOAKED IN PETROL, A BOY NAMED HIMANGSHU LIT A MATCH –
AAAAH!
WITH PETROL EVERYWHERE, THE FIRE SPREAD IMMEDIATELY.
WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR!
ROLL HIM!

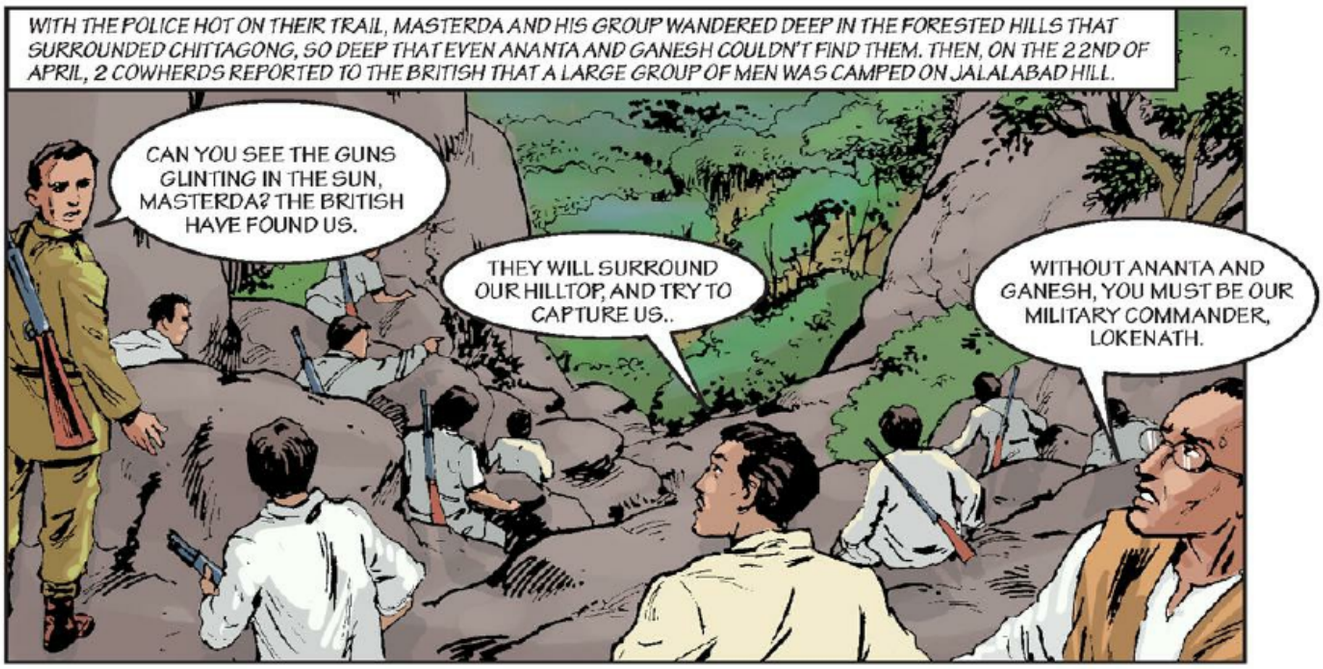

THE BOYS ARE EXHAUSTED AND DISPIRITED, AMBIKA. OUR TWO MILITARY EXPERTS, ANANTA AND GANESH HAVE GONE TO DROP HIMANGSHU. WHAT SHALL WE DO?
LET'S MAKE FOR THE HILLS.

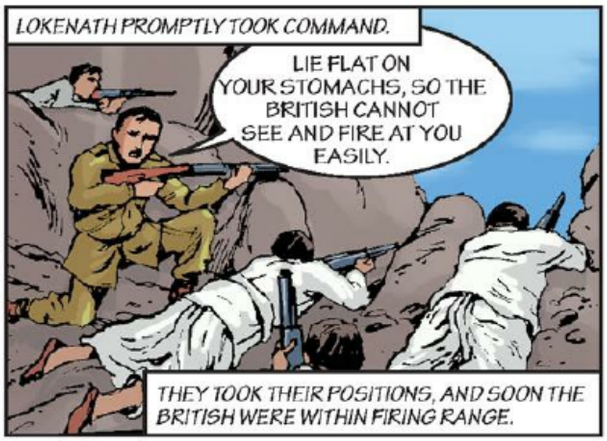
WHEN ANANTA AND GANESH RETURNED –
THERE IS NO ONE HERE.
THEY MUST HAVE GONE INTO THE HILLS. LET'S GO THERE.

THEY'RE GONE!
WHERE ARE THEY? I HOPE THEY SEE OUR FLASHING LIGHTS!

IN THE HILLS, QUITE NEARBY –
I CAN SEE FLASHING HEADLIGHTS! IT MUST BE THE BRITISH LOOKING FOR US.

WHERE COULD THEY BE, GANESH? I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN CAUGHT.
IT'S ALMOST DAWN. IF WE STAY ANY LONGER, WE MIGHT ALSO GET CAUGHT.

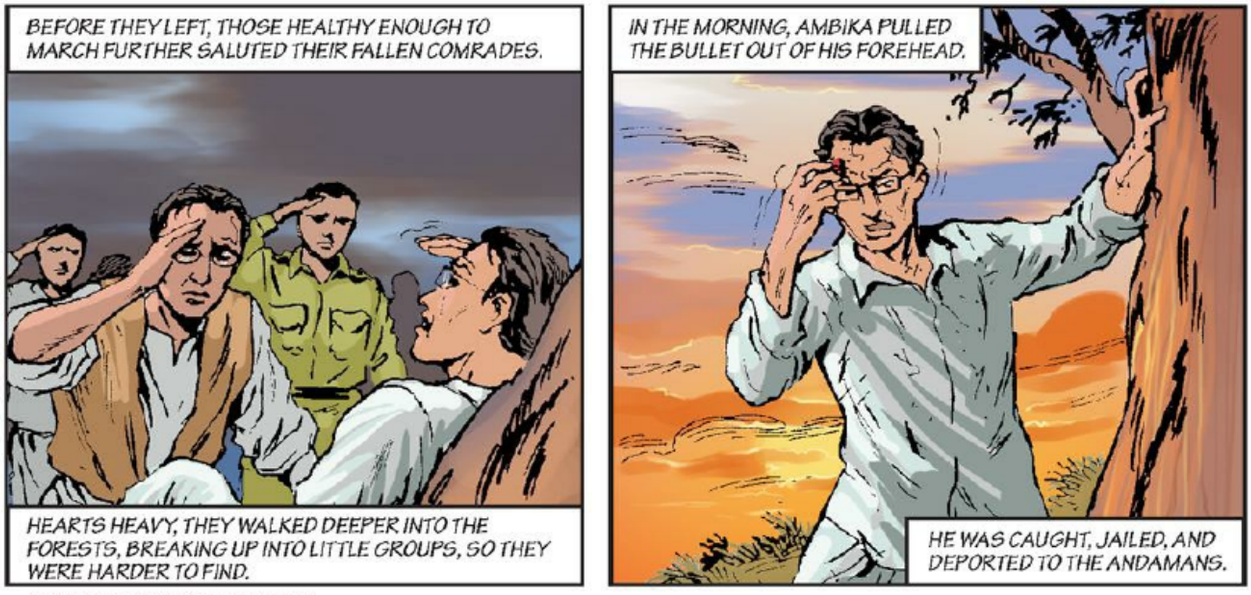

WITH THE POLICE HOT ON THEIR TRAIL, MASTERDA AND HIS GROUP WANDERED DEEP IN THE FORESTED HILLS THAT SURROUNDED CHITTAGONG, SO DEEP THAT EVEN ANANTA AND GANESH COULDN'T FIND THEM. THEN, ON THE 22ND OF APRIL, 2 COWHERDS REPORTED TO THE BRITISH THAT A LARGE GROUP OF MEN WAS CAMPED ON JALALABAD HILL.
CAN YOU SEE THE GUNS GLINTING IN THE SUN, MASTERDA? THE BRITISH HAVE FOUND US.
THEY WILL SURROUND OUR HILLTOP, AND TRY TO CAPTURE US..
WITHOUT ANANTA AND GANESH, YOU MUST BE OUR MILITARY COMMANDER, LOKENATH.


LOKENATH PROMPTLY TOOK COMMAND.
LIE FLAT ON YOUR STOMACHS, SO THE BRITISH CANNOT SEE AND FIRE AT YOU EASILY.
THEY TOOK THEIR POSITIONS, AND SOON THE BRITISH WERE WITHIN FIRING RANGE.

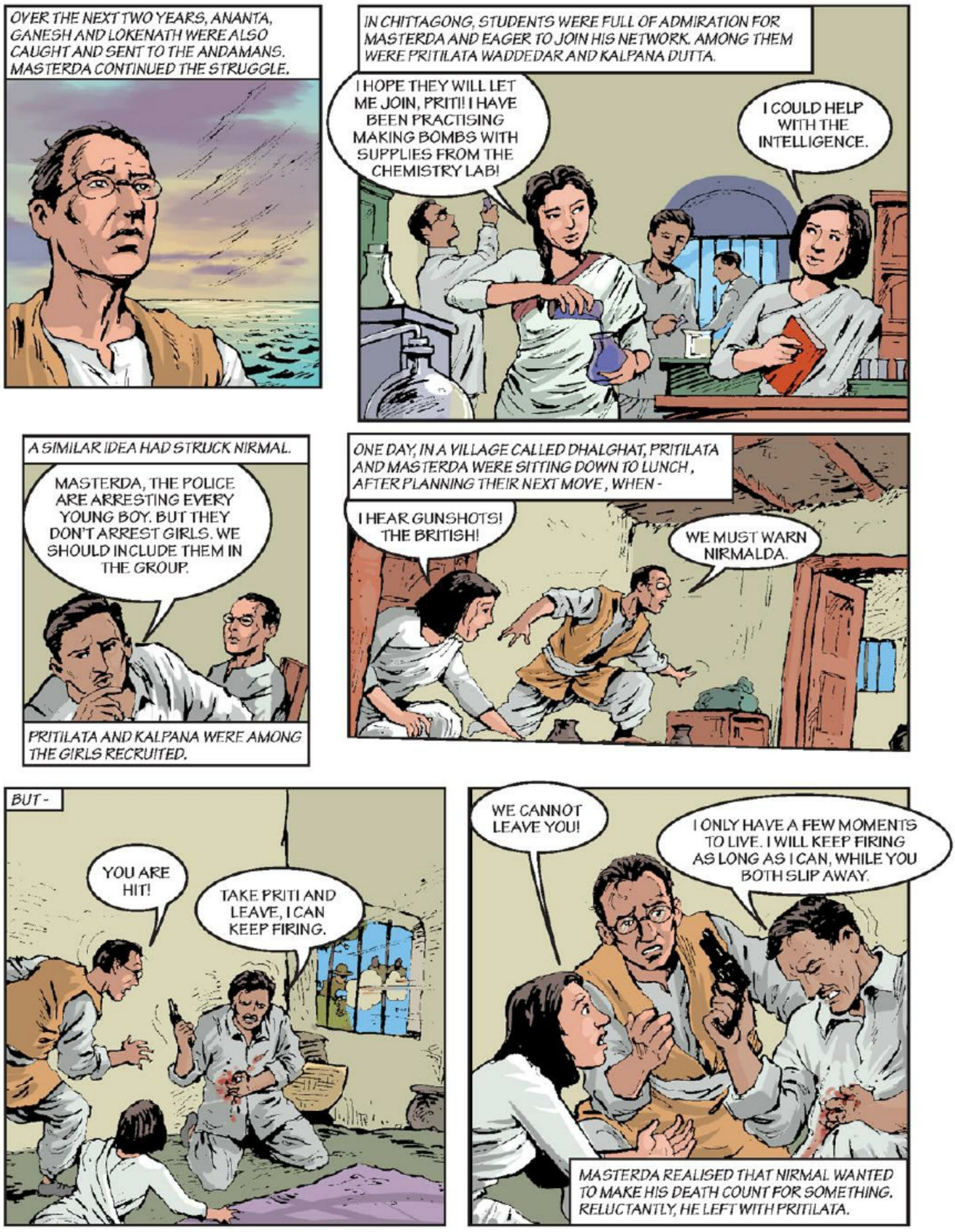
VANDE MATARAM!

THE BATTLE RAGED ON.
THE BRITISH STOPPED FIRING.

THE CHITTAGONG GROUP WAS GLAD, FOR THEIR GUNS WERE OLD, AND NOT MEANT TO BE FIRED RAPIDLY. THE BRITISH HAD POWERFUL MACHINE GUNS.
THEY WILL BE BACK. HAND ME YOUR GUN, I'LL TAKE IT TO NIRMALDA TO CLEAN.

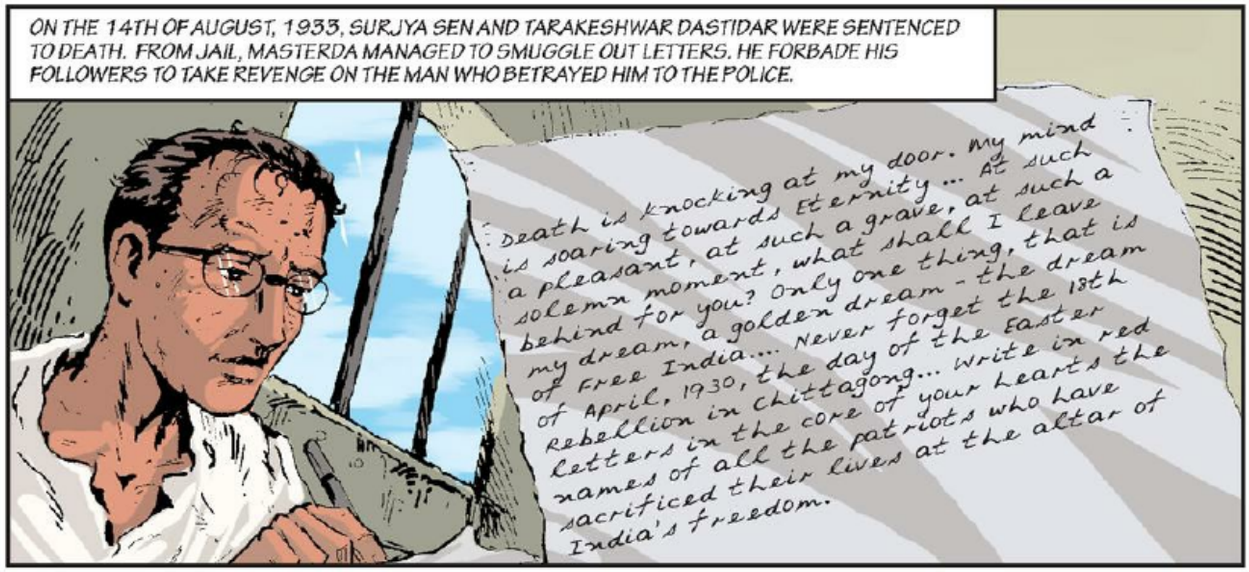


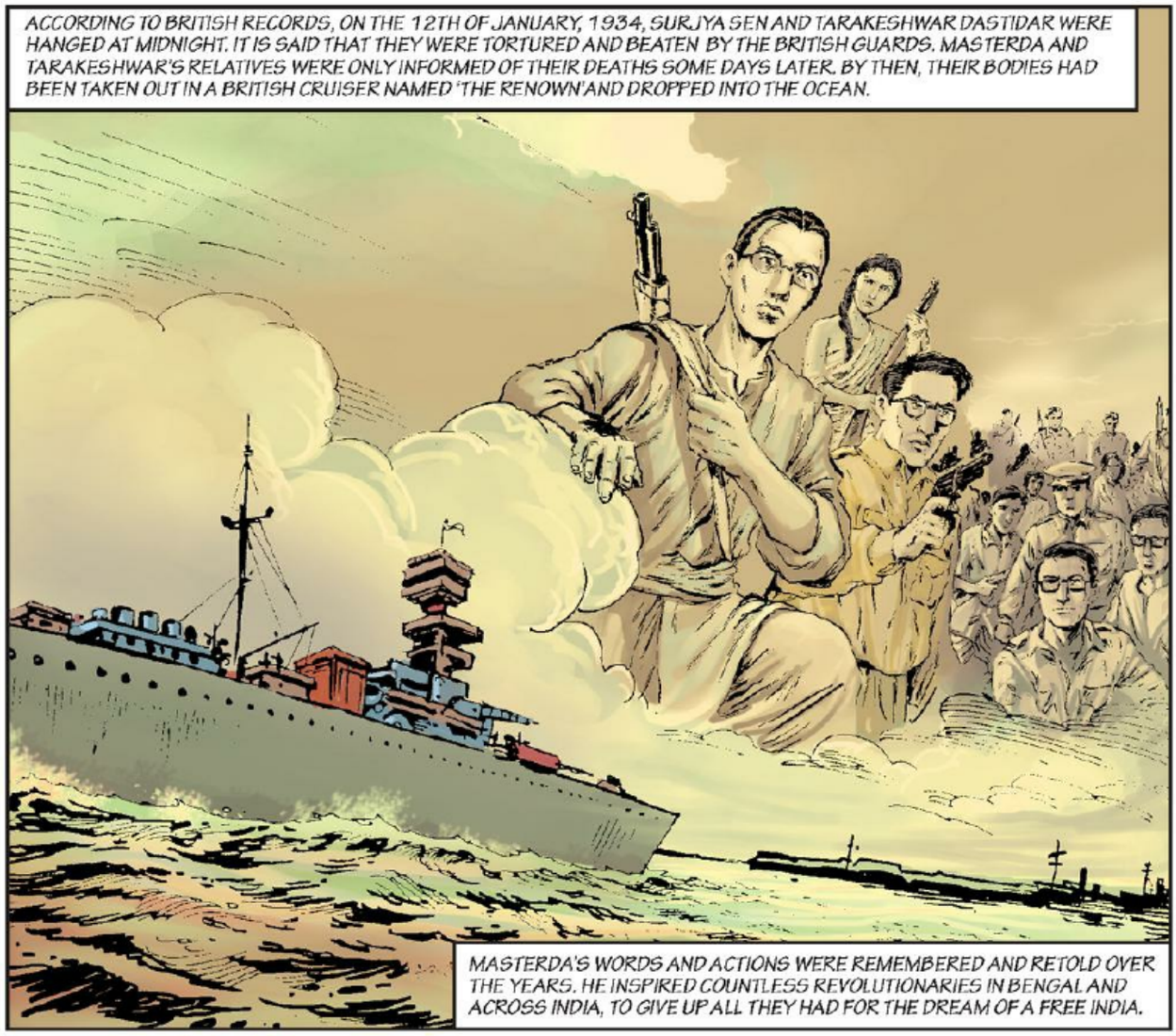
*'I AM ON MY WAY' IN BENGALI


OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, ANANTA, GANESH AND LOKENATH WERE ALSO CAUGHT AND SENT TO THE ANDAMANS. MASTERDA CONTINUED THE STRUGGLE.
IN CHITTAGONG, STUDENTS WERE FULL OF ADMIRATION FOR MASTERDA AND EAGER TO JOIN HIS NETWORK. AMONG THEM WERE PRITILATA WADDEDAR AND KALPANA DUTTA.
I HOPE THEY WILL LET ME JOIN, PRITI! I HAVE BEEN PRACTISING MAKING BOMBS WITH SUPPLIES FROM THE CHEMISTRY LAB!
I COULD HELP WITH THE INTELLIGENCE.
A SIMILAR IDEA HAD STRUCK NIRMAL.
MASTERDA, THE POLICE ARE ARRESTING EVERY YOUNG BOY. BUT THEY DON'T ARREST GIRLS. WE SHOULD INCLUDE THEM IN THE GROUP.
PRITILATA AND KALPANA WERE AMONG THE GIRLS RECRUITED.
ONE DAY, IN A VILLAGE CALLED DHALGHAT, PRITILATA AND MASTERDA WERE SITTING DOWN TO LUNCH, AFTER PLANNING THEIR NEXT MOVE, WHEN -
I HEAR GUNSHOTS! THE BRITISH!
WE MUST WARN NIRMALDA.
BUT -
YOU ARE HIT!
TAKE PRITI AND LEAVE, I CAN KEEP FIRING.
WE CANNOT LEAVE YOU!
I ONLY HAVE A FEW MOMENTS TO LIVE. I WILL KEEP FIRING AS LONG AS I CAN, WHILE YOU BOTH SLIP AWAY.
MASTERDA REALISED THAT NIRMAL WANTED TO MAKE HIS DEATH COUNT FOR SOMETHING. RELUCTANTLY, HE LEFT WITH PRITILATA.

SO MANY OF MY COMRADES HAVE DIED OR BEEN JAILED IN THIS FIGHT.
WE MUST HIT THE BRITISH HARD, MASTERDA. I WANT TO BE THE FIRST WOMAN TO DIE FOR OUR CAUSE.
ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1932, AT 10:45 PM, PRITILATA WHISTLED OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN CLUB IN PAHARTALI.
SEVEN MEN RUSHED INTO THE CLUB, FIRING WILDLY. THEY THREW A BOMB.
AS THEY RAN OUT, LEAVING THE CLUB IN CHAOS, PRITILATA SWALLOWED CYANIDE. SHE REMEMBERED MASTERDA'S FAILED CYANIDE PILL AND -
CAN I HAVE YOURS TOO? JUST TO MAKE SURE?
THE BOY WAS NAMED KALIKINKER DEY. HE GAVE HER HIS PILL, HELPLESSLY, SINCE SHE WAS ALREADY DYING.
PRITILATA FULFILLED HER AMBITION TO BE A MARTYR.

EARLY 1933. MASTERDA HAD BEEN ON THE RUN FOR YEARS NOW. HE WAS TIRED BUT MOVED ON, RALLYING PEOPLE IN EACH NEW VILLAGE. HE HAD NEW COMPANIONS NOW. LATE ONE EVENING, HE, KALPANA, MANI DUTT AND SOME OTHERS WERE LEAVING A VILLAGE NAMED GAIRALA.
WHERE TO NEXT, MASTERDA?
I DON'T WANT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD, KALPANA. SOMEONE MIGHT HEAR US.
THE JUNGLE IS SO DARK!
KALPANA LOST SIGHT OF MASTERDA. SUDDENLY –
OH!
SPLASH
THEN –
AHH!
SHHH, IT'S ME, MANI.
SPLASH
LET'S CALL FOR MASTERDA, MANI, OR HE'LL GO AHEAD WITHOUT US.
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE. LOOK!
MASTERDA HAD BEEN SURROUNDED BY BRITISH SOLDIERS FROM THE GURKHA REGIMENT.
IS THIS REALLY THE INFAMOUS SURJYA SEN? HE SEEMS SO QUIET AND DIGNIFIED!
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A REVOLUTIONARY. BUT IF THIS IS SURJYA SEN, THEN HE IS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN. ARREST THEM.
THEY LEARNT LATER THAT A MAN NAMED NETRA SEN HAD GIVEN THEM AWAY TO THE POLICE. KALPANA AND ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY NAMED TARAKESHWAR DASTIDAR WERE ALSO ARRESTED, SOON AFTER.


ON THE 14TH OF AUGUST, 1933, SURJYA SEN AND TARAKESHWAR DASTIDAR WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH. FROM JAIL, MASTERDA MANAGED TO SMUGGLE OUT LETTERS. HE FORBADE HIS FOLLOWERS TO TAKE REVENGE ON THE MAN WHO BETRAYED HIM TO THE POLICE.
Death is knocking at my door. My mind is soaring towards Eternity ... At such a pleasant, at such a grave, at such a solemn moment, what shall I leave behind for you? Only one thing, that is my dream, a golden dream - the dream of Free India.... Never forget the 18th of April, 1930, the day of the Easter rebellion in Chittagong... Write in red letters in the core of your hearts the names of all the patriots who have sacrificed their lives at the altar of India's freedom.


ACCORDING TO BRITISH RECORDS, ON THE 12TH OF JANUARY, 1934, SURJYA SEN AND TARAKESHWAR DASTIDAR WERE HANGED AT MIDNIGHT. IT IS SAID THAT THEY WERE TORTURED AND BEATEN BY THE BRITISH GUARDS. MASTERDA AND TARAKESHWAR'S RELATIVES WERE ONLY INFORMED OF THEIR DEATHS SOME DAYS LATER. BY THEN, THEIR BODIES HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT IN A BRITISH CRUISER NAMED 'THE RENOWN' AND DROPPED INTO THE OCEAN.
MASTERDA'S WORDS AND ACTIONS WERE REMEMBERED AND RETOLD OVER THE YEARS. HE INSPIRED COUNTLESS REVOLUTIONARIES IN BENGAL AND ACROSS INDIA, TO GIVE UP ALL THEY HAD FOR THE DREAM OF A FREE INDIA.

SURJYA SEN

SURJYA SEN, ALSO KNOWN AS MASTERDA, WAS A **QUIET, STUDIOUS-LOOKING** MAN. HE WAS THE LEADER AND THE PLANNER OF THE CHITTAGONG ARMOURY RAID. HE ALSO LED THE SURVIVORS OF THE RAID IN THEIR LONG RUN FROM THE POLICE.

AMBIKA CHAKRABARTI

AMBIKA WAS NICKNAMED THE 'FOREIGN MINISTER' OF THE GROUP. HE MAINTAINED **A WIDE-RANGING NETWORK** OF CONTACTS, TO HELP THEM WITH RECRUITS AND WITH INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY REGARDING POLICE MOVEMENT. HE WAS ALSO IN CHARGE OF GETTING FUNDS.

ANANTA LAL SINGH

ANANTA'S FAMILY WAS OF PUNJABI ORIGIN BUT HAD BEEN LIVING IN CHITTAGONG FOR THE LAST FEW GENERATIONS. HE WAS AN EXPERT MARKSMAN, A BOXER, A WRESTLER, A MARTIAL ARTIST AND A RENOWNED PHYSICAL INSTRUCTOR, WHO TRAINED THE BOYS IN SHOOTING AND FIGHTING OF ALL KINDS.

GANESH GHOSH

GANESH GHOSH WAS THE MILITARY STRATEGIST OF THE GROUP. HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE REVOLUTIONARY GROUP BY HIS SCHOOL FRIEND, ANANTA SINGH.

LOKENATH BAL

LOKENATH BAL WAS THE YOUNGEST OF THE CHITTAGONG GROUP. HE WAS TALL, STRAPPING, AND FAIR ENOUGH TO PASS FOR AN ENGLISHMAN. HE ASSISTED ANANTA AND GANESH IN THEIR RECRUITING AND TRAINING.

NIRMAL SEN

NIRMAL SEN WAS KNOWN AMONG HIS FRIENDS AS 'THE ARMAMENTS MAN' AND THE 'DEFENCE MINISTER.' HE BUILT AND MAINTAINED A HUGE NETWORK OF CONTACTS ALL OVER BENGAL AND EVEN ACROSS THE BURMESE BORDER. HE SMUGGLED IN ARMS, AMMUNITION, AND VARIOUS SUPPLIES THAT THE CHITTAGONG GROUP NEEDED TO MANUFACTURE THEIR OWN EXPLOSIVES.

KALPANA DATTA

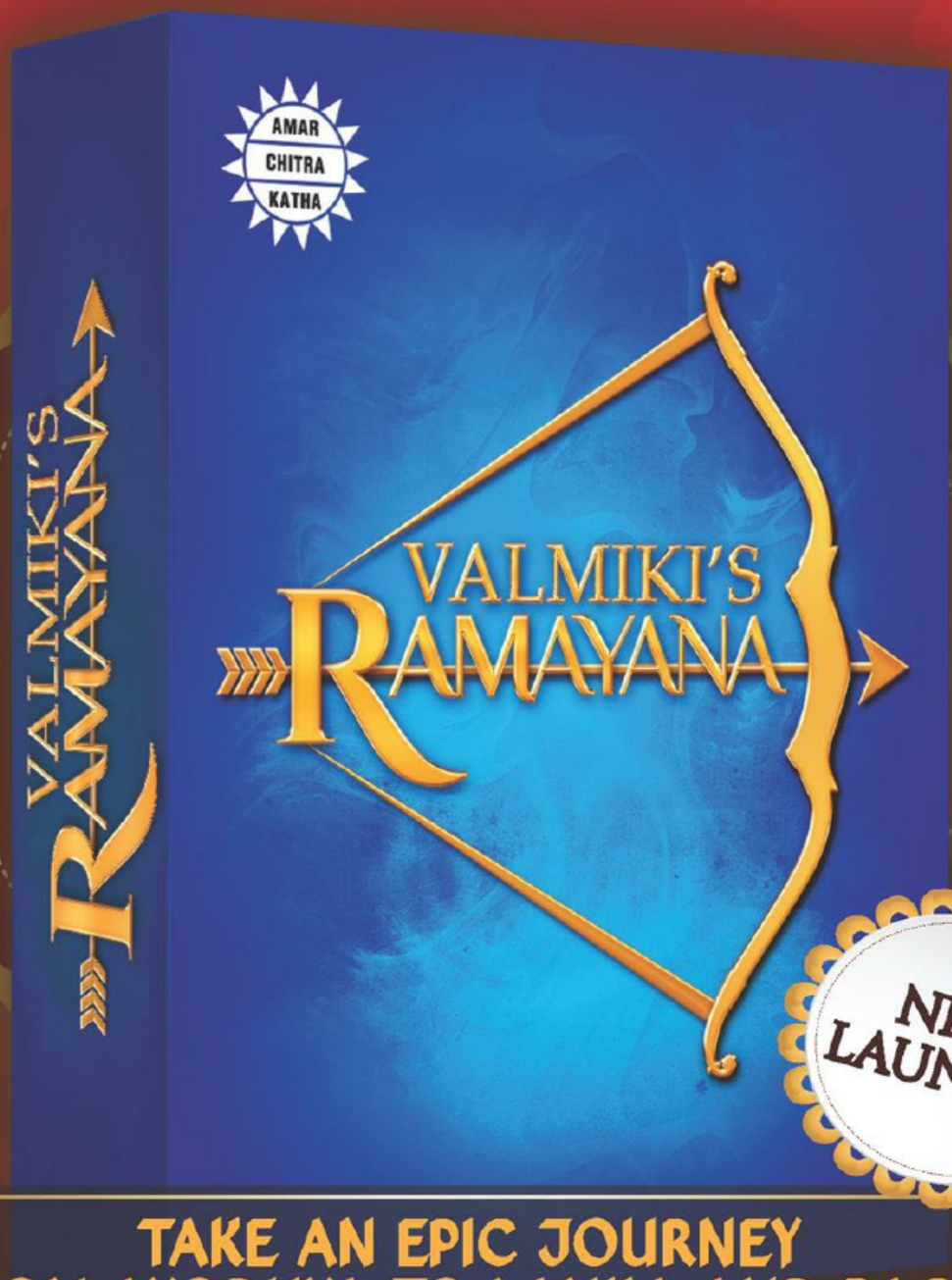
KALPANA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT - THOUGH SHE WAS ALLOWED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE ONLY AFTER THE CHITTAGONG RAID, WHEN THE MAIN LEADERS WERE ALL FUGITIVES AND COULD NOT COME INTO CHITTAGONG. SHE WAS A CHEMISTRY STUDENT, WHO USED CHEMICAL SUPPLIES FROM HER COLLEGE AND TAUGHT HERSELF HOW TO BUILD EXPLOSIVES.

PRITILATA WADDEDAR

PRITILATA ACTED AS A GO-BETWEEN, TAKING INFORMATION AND MESSAGES FROM THOSE IN JAIL TO THOSE IN HIDING, HELPING STRENGTHEN THE REVOLUTIONARIES' PLANS AND NETWORK. HER DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE WAS SO STRONG, THAT SHE WAS DETERMINED TO BECOME A MARTYR TO IT. IN THE END, SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE AFTER A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON A BRITISH CLUB.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

SEVEN KANDS!
One Legendary Tale!



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BHAGAT SINGH

The route to your roots

BHAGAT SINGH

Bhagat Singh sang gustily as he walked to the gallows. Backed by a courageous family, this twenty-three-year-old firebrand was wedded to death. A free India was his heaven, and the martyrs of the freedom struggle were his gods. Using disguise and guile, persuasion and force, his life was a roller-coaster ride through an unjust system. But eventually, he awakened India and the world to the idea of liberty, and brought the mighty British Raj to its knees.

Script
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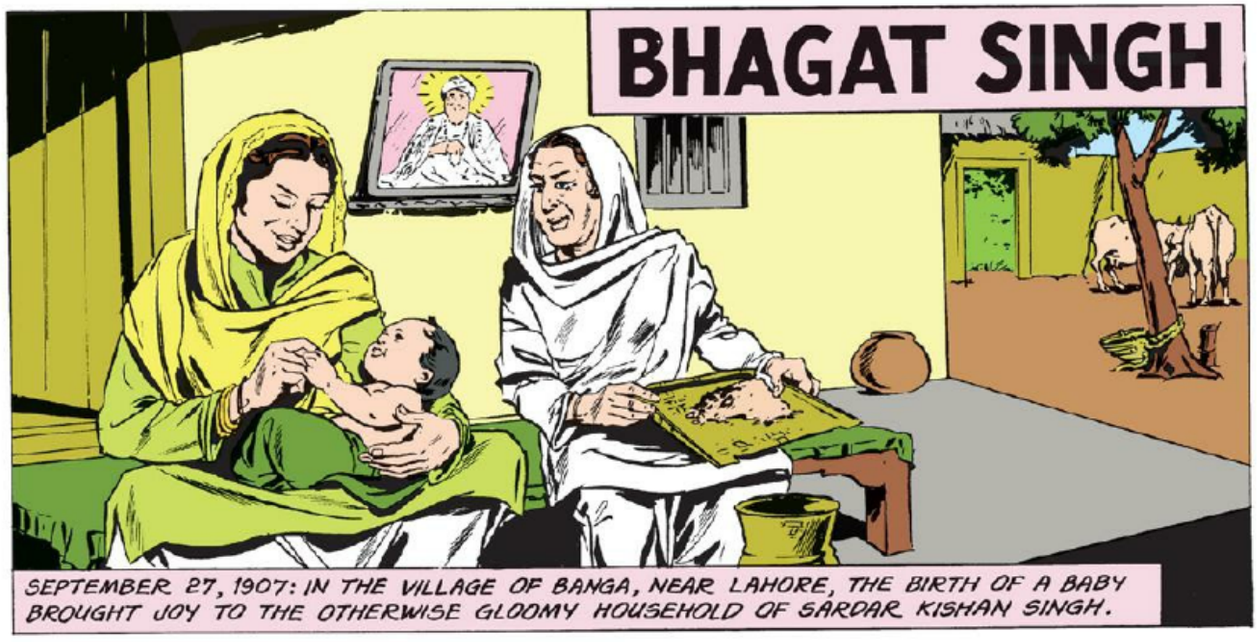
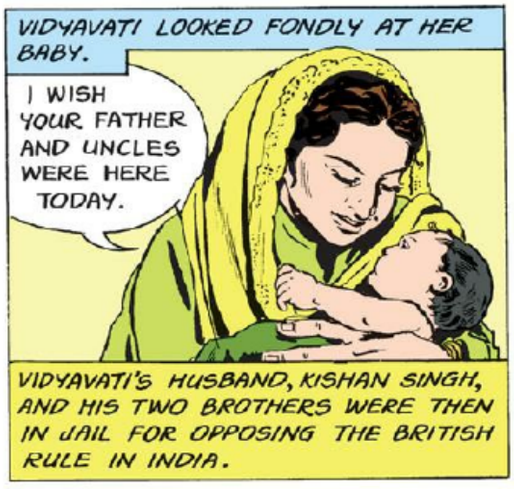
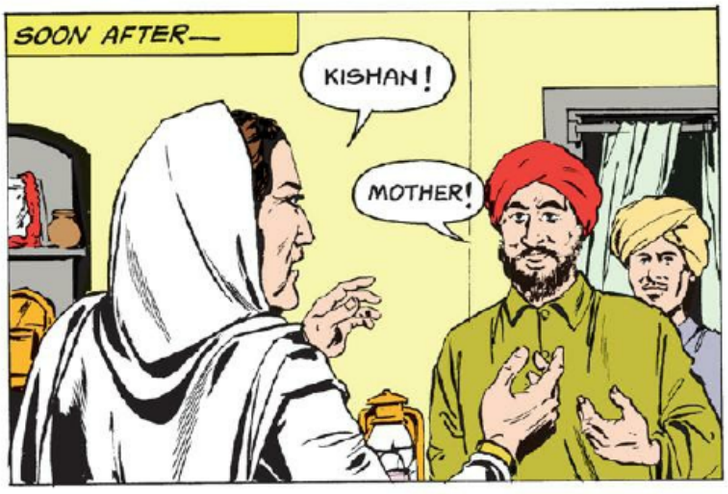
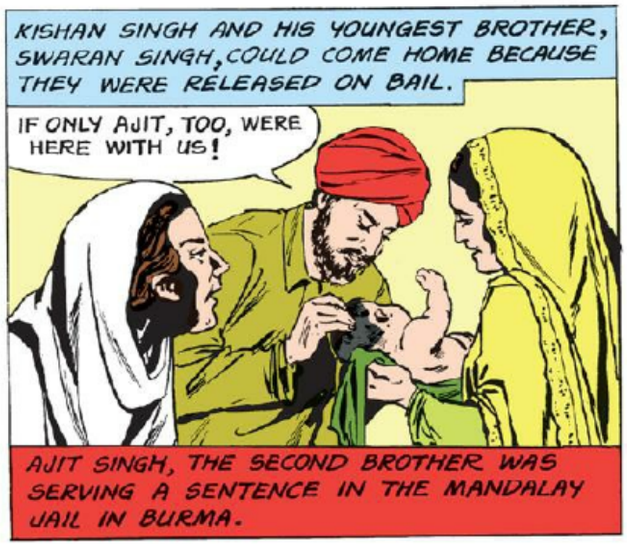
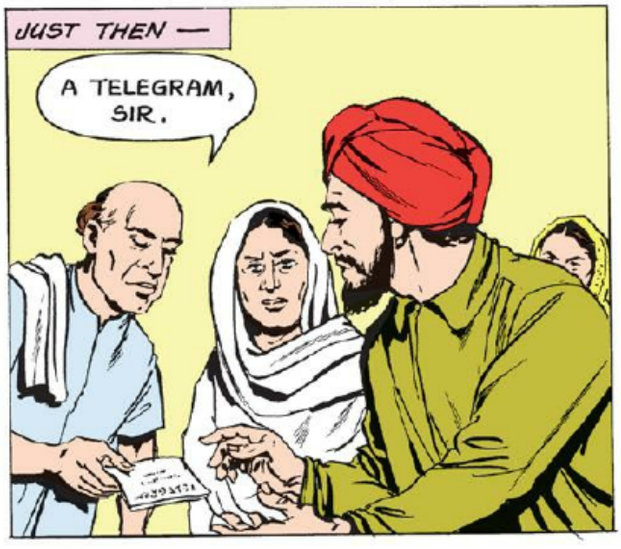
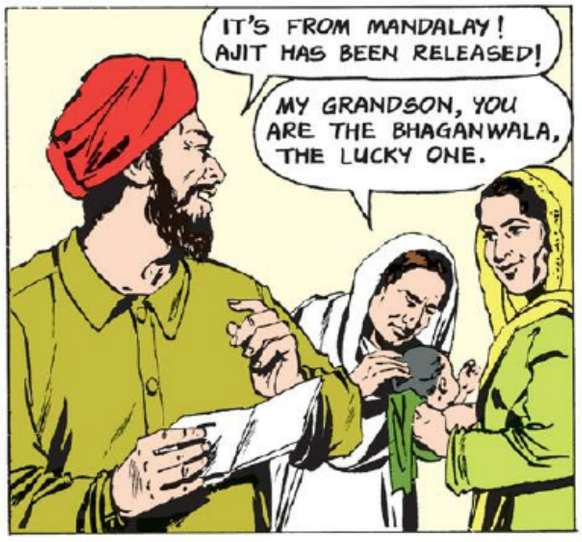

BHAGAT SINGH
SEPTEMBER 27, 1907: IN THE VILLAGE OF BANGA, NEAR LAHORE, THE BIRTH OF A BABY BROUGHT JOY TO THE OTHERWISE GLOOMY HOUSEHOLD OF SARDAR KISHAN SINGH.

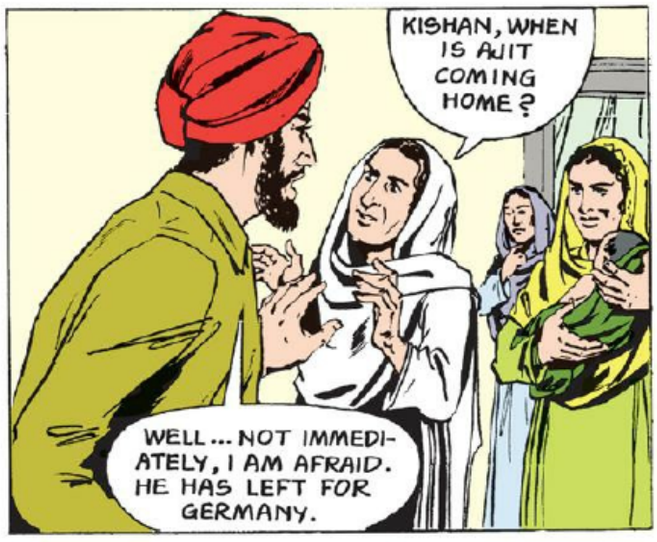

VIDYAVATI LOOKED FONDLY AT HER BABY.
I WISH YOUR FATHER AND UNCLES WERE HERE TODAY.
VIDYAVATI'S HUSBAND, KISHAN SINGH, AND HIS TWO BROTHERS WERE THEN IN JAIL FOR OPPOSING THE BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.


SOON AFTER—
KISHAN!
MOTHER!


KISHAN SINGH AND HIS YOUNGEST BROTHER, SWARAN SINGH, COULD COME HOME BECAUSE THEY WERE RELEASED ON BAIL.
IF ONLY AJIT, TOO, WERE HERE WITH US!
AJIT SINGH, THE SECOND BROTHER WAS SERVING A SENTENCE IN THE MANDALAY JAIL IN BURMA.

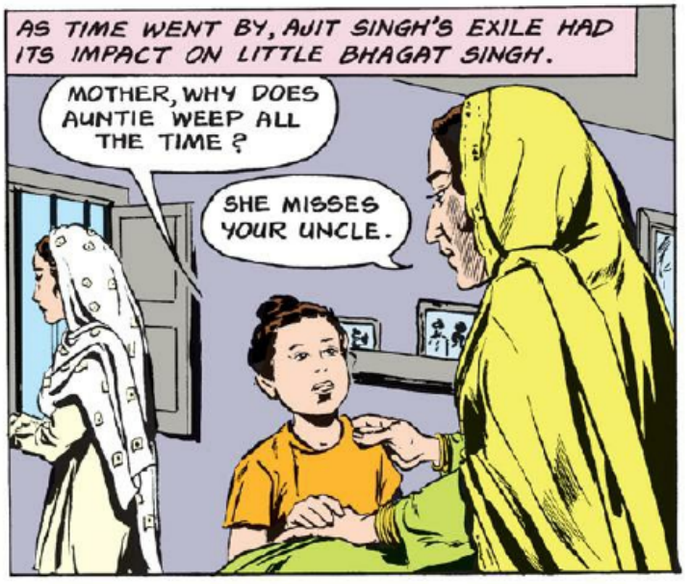

JUST THEN —
A TELEGRAM, SIR.

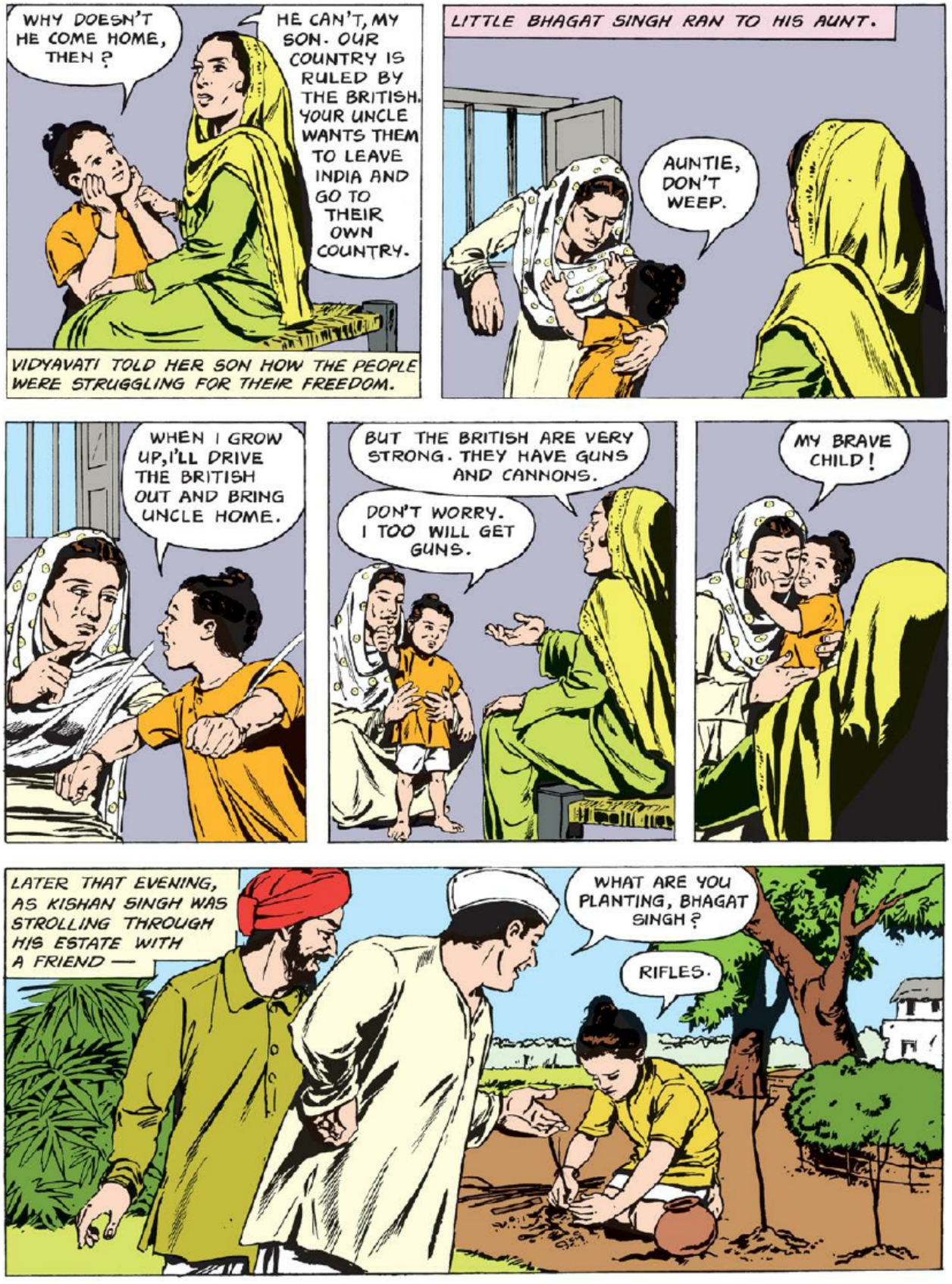

IT'S FROM MANDALAY! AJIT HAS BEEN RELEASED!
MY GRANDSON, YOU ARE THE BHAGANWALA, THE LUCKY ONE.

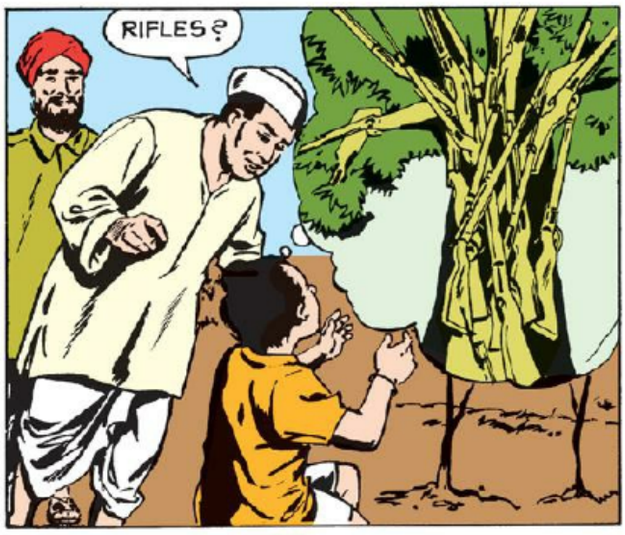

KISHAN, WHEN IS AJIT COMING HOME?
WELL... NOT IMMEDIATELY, I AM AFRAID. HE HAS LEFT FOR GERMANY.

MONTHS WENT BY.
WHY DOESN'T MY SON COME HOME?
MOTHER, PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND. THE MOMENT AJIT RETURNS, HE'LL BE JAILED AGAIN ON SOME PRETEXT OR OTHER.

I UNDERSTAND. BUT MY POOR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. WHO WILL WIPE HER TEARS?

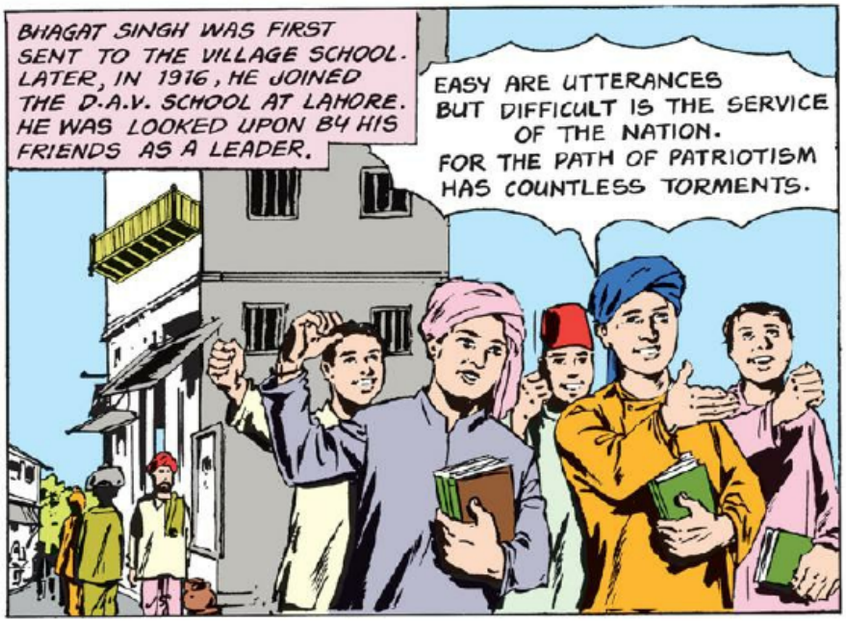

AS TIME WENT BY, AJIT SINGH'S EXILE HAD ITS IMPACT ON LITTLE BHAGAT SINGH.
MOTHER, WHY DOES AUNTIE WEEP ALL THE TIME?
SHE MISSES YOUR UNCLE.

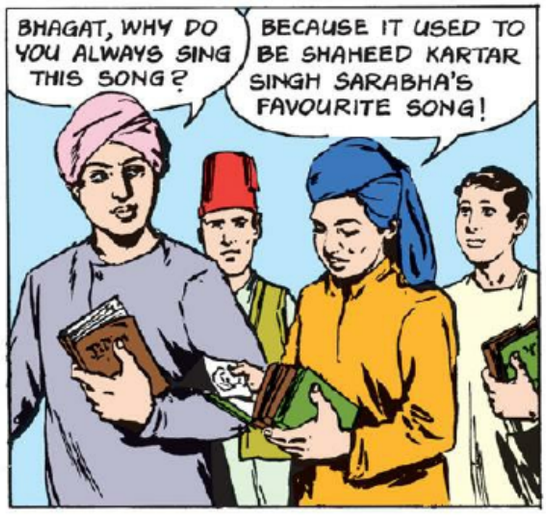

WHY DOESN'T HE COME HOME, THEN ?
HE CAN'T, MY SON. OUR COUNTRY IS RULED BY THE BRITISH. YOUR UNCLE WANTS THEM TO LEAVE INDIA AND GO TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY.
VIDYAVATI TOLD HER SON HOW THE PEOPLE WERE STRUGGLING FOR THEIR FREEDOM.
LITTLE BHAGAT SINGH RAN TO HIS AUNT.
AUNTIE, DON'T WEEP.
WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL DRIVE THE BRITISH OUT AND BRING UNCLE HOME.
BUT THE BRITISH ARE VERY STRONG. THEY HAVE GUNS AND CANNONS.
DON'T WORRY. I TOO WILL GET GUNS.
MY BRAVE CHILD!
LATER THAT EVENING, AS KISHAN SINGH WAS STROLLING THROUGH HIS ESTATE WITH A FRIEND —
WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING, BHAGAT SINGH ?
RIFLES.

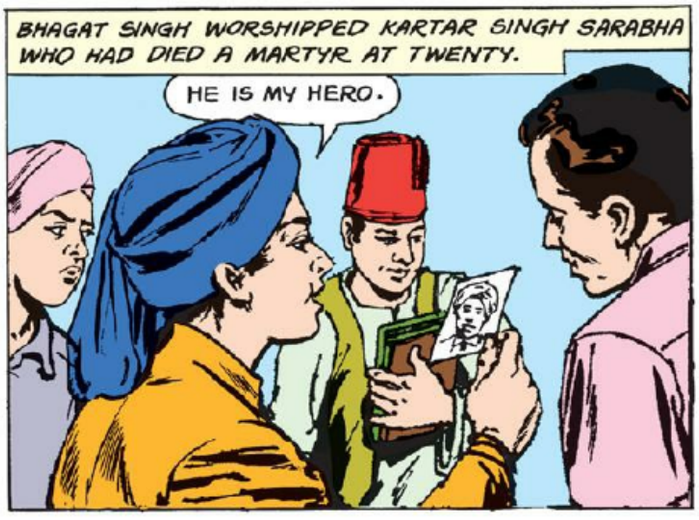

RIFLES?

WHY RIFLES?
TO FREE MY COUNTRY.

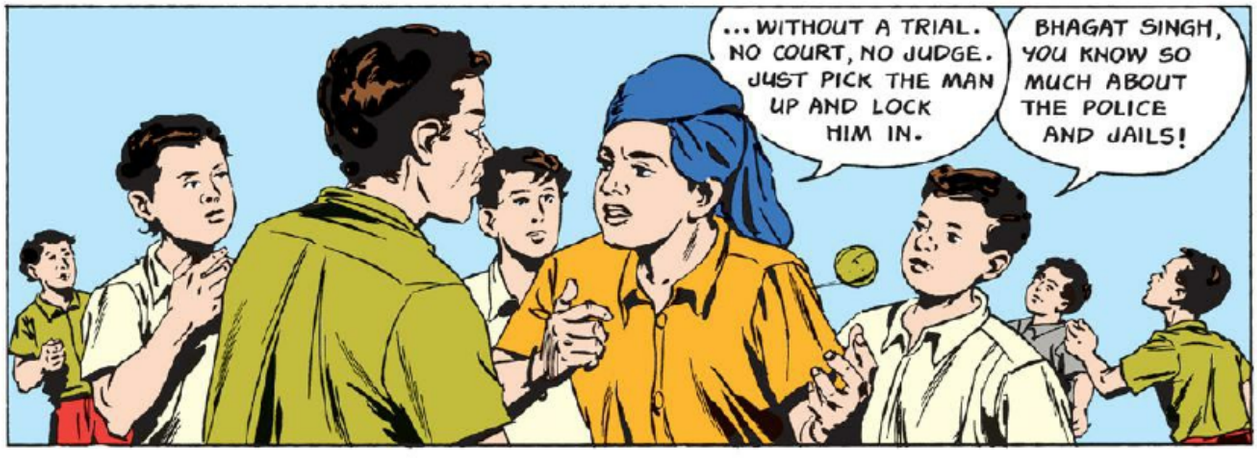
YES, BHAGAT SINGH. WE NEED RIFLES TO LIBERATE OUR LAND. AND WE NEED BRAVE BOYS LIKE YOU!


BHAGAT SINGH WAS FIRST SENT TO THE VILLAGE SCHOOL. LATER, IN 1916, HE JOINED THE D.A.V. SCHOOL AT LAHORE. HE WAS LOOKED UPON BY HIS FRIENDS AS A LEADER.
EASY ARE UTTERANCES BUT DIFFICULT IS THE SERVICE OF THE NATION. FOR THE PATH OF PATRIOTISM HAS COUNTLESS TORMENTS.

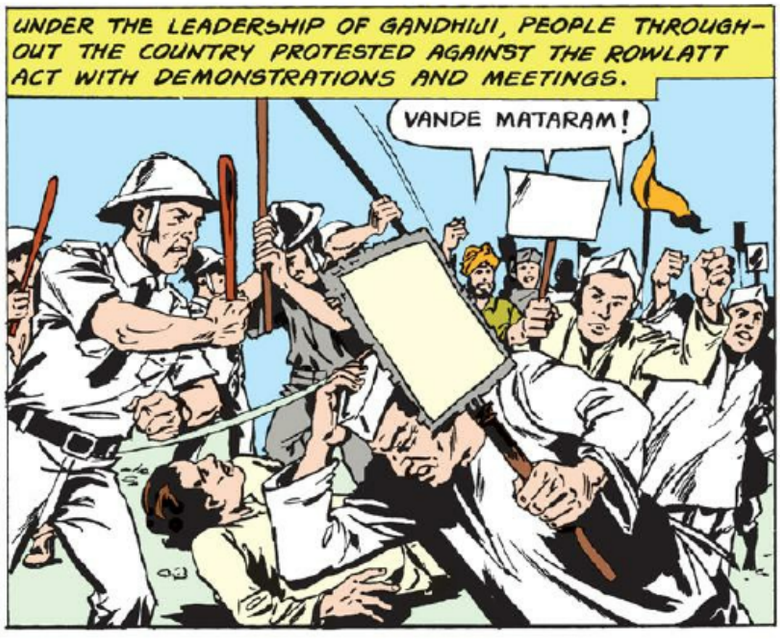

BHAGAT, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SING THIS SONG?
BECAUSE IT USED TO BE SHAHEED KARTAR SINGH SARABHA'S FAVOURITE SONG!

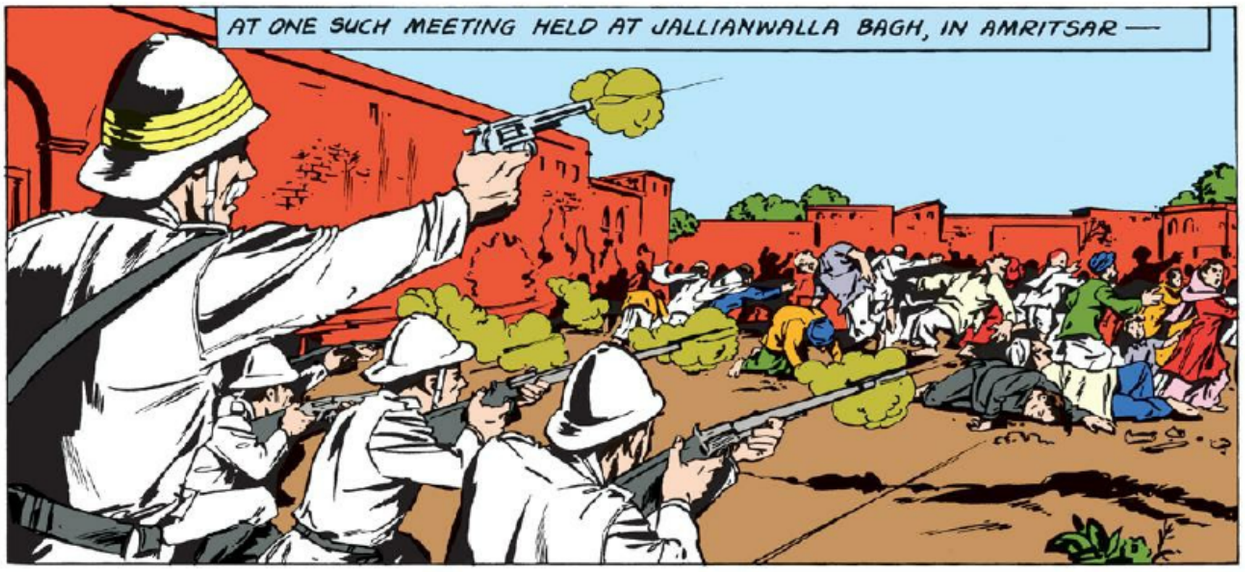

BHAGAT SINGH WORSHIPPED KARTAR SINGH SARABHA WHO HAD DIED A MARTYR AT TWENTY.
HE IS MY HERO.

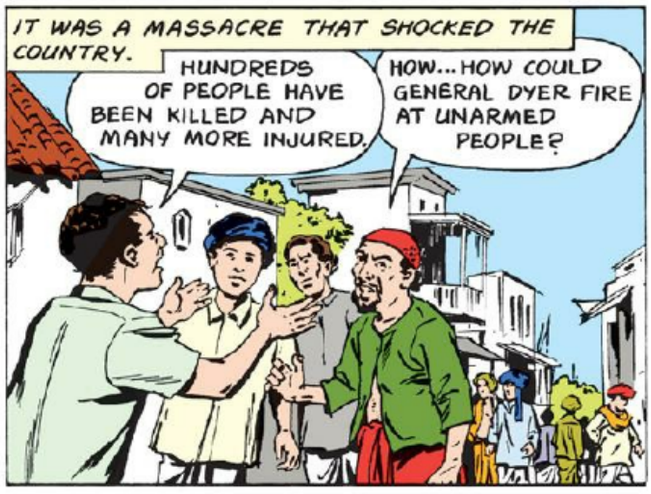
IN 1919, WHEN BHAGAT SINGH WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, THE GOVERNMENT PASSED THE INFAMOUS ROWLATT ACT.
BHAGAT SINGH, WHAT IS THIS ROWLATT ACT? DO YOU KNOW?
I AM TOLD IT EMPOWERS THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND A MAN TO JAIL...

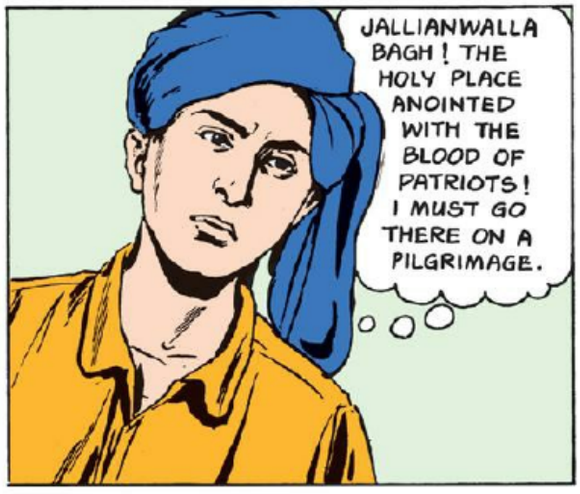

...WITHOUT A TRIAL. NO COURT, NO JUDGE. JUST PICK THE MAN UP AND LOCK HIM IN.
BHAGAT SINGH, YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE POLICE AND JAILS!

THAT'S NOT SURPRISING. MY FATHER AND UNCLES WERE IN JAIL. THEIR CRIME? THEY LOVED OUR MOTHERLAND AS SHAHEED KARTAR SINGH DID.

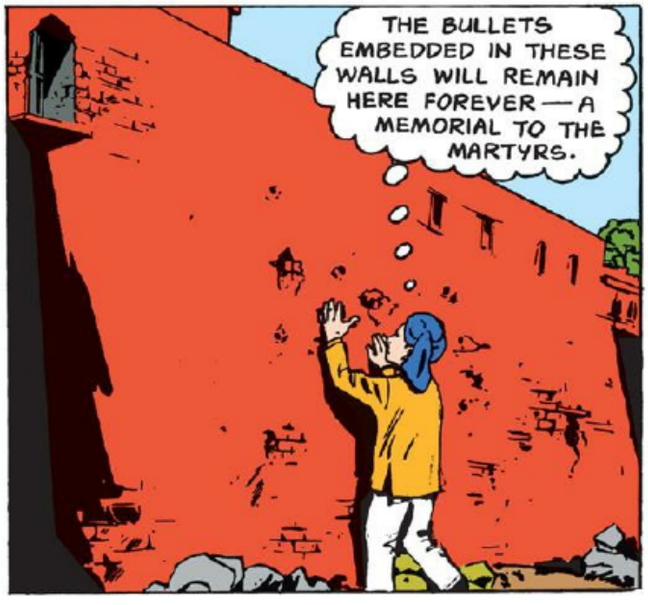

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GANDHIJI, PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY PROTESTED AGAINST THE ROWLATT ACT WITH DEMONSTRATIONS AND MEETINGS.
VANDE MATARAM!

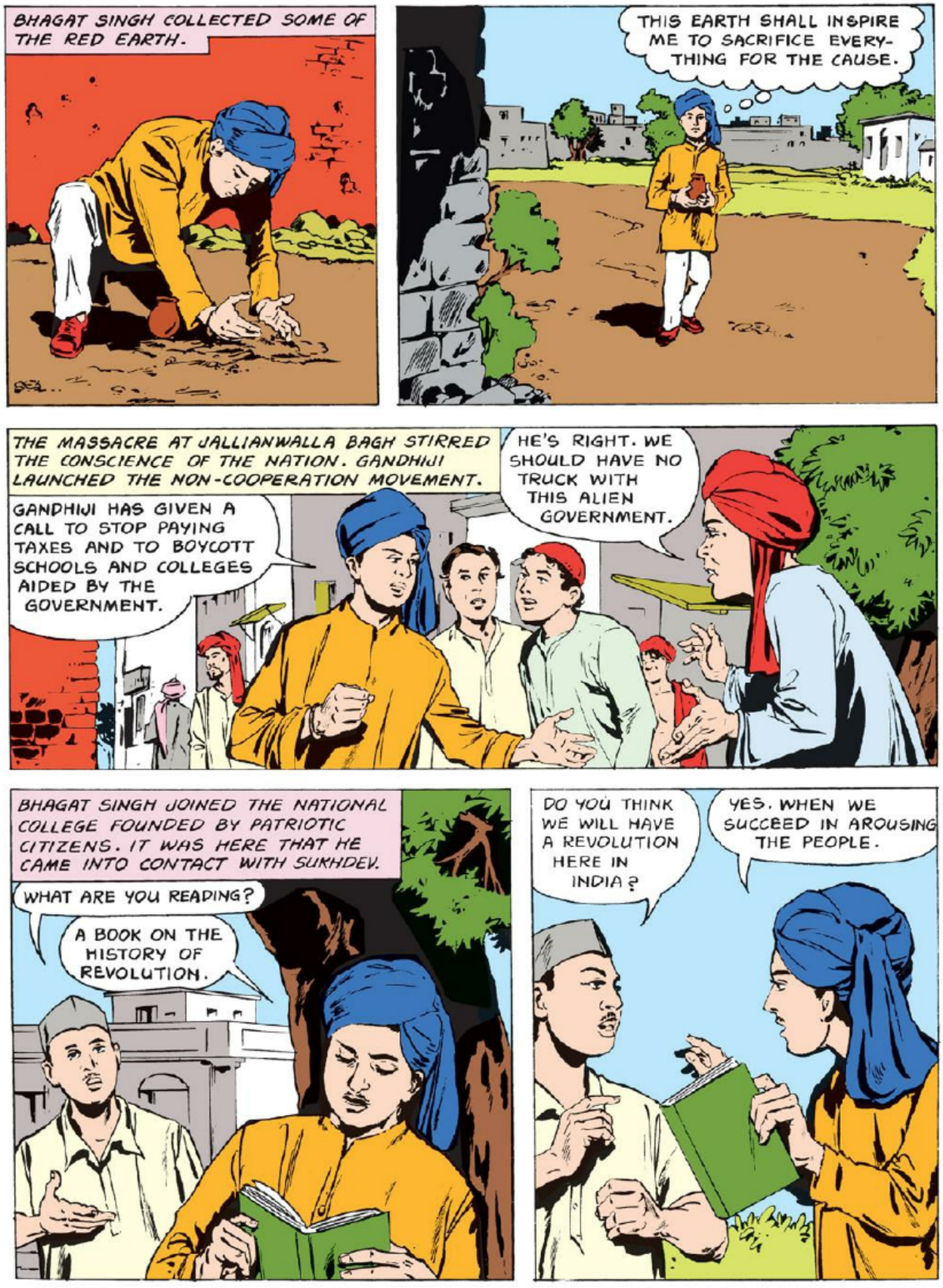

AT ONE SUCH MEETING HELD AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH, IN AMRITSAR —


IT WAS A MASSACRE THAT SHOCKED THE COUNTRY.
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND MANY MORE INJURED.
HOW... HOW COULD GENERAL DYER FIRE AT UNARMED PEOPLE?


JALLIANWALLA BAGH! THE HOLY PLACE ANOINTED WITH THE BLOOD OF PATRIOTS! I MUST GO THERE ON A PILGRIMAGE.

BHAGAT SINGH VISITED JALLIANWALLA BAGH.
GOD! THIS WAS A DEATH-TRAP!


THE BULLETS EMBEDDED IN THESE WALLS WILL REMAIN HERE FOREVER — A MEMORIAL TO THE MARTYRS.


BHAGAT SINGH COLLECTED SOME OF THE RED EARTH.
THIS EARTH SHALL INSPIRE ME TO SACRIFICE EVERY-THING FOR THE CAUSE.
THE MASSACRE AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH STIRRED THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION. GANDHIJI LAUNCHED THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT.
GANDHIJI HAS GIVEN A CALL TO STOP PAYING TAXES AND TO BOYCOTT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
HE'S RIGHT. WE SHOULD HAVE NO TRUCK WITH THIS ALIEN GOVERNMENT.
BHAGAT SINGH JOINED THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOUNDED BY PATRIOTIC CITIZENS. IT WAS HERE THAT HE CAME INTO CONTACT WITH SUKHDEV.
WHAT ARE YOU READING?
A BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF REVOLUTION.
DO YOU THINK WE WILL HAVE A REVOLUTION HERE IN INDIA?
YES. WHEN WE SUCCEED IN AROUSING THE PEOPLE.

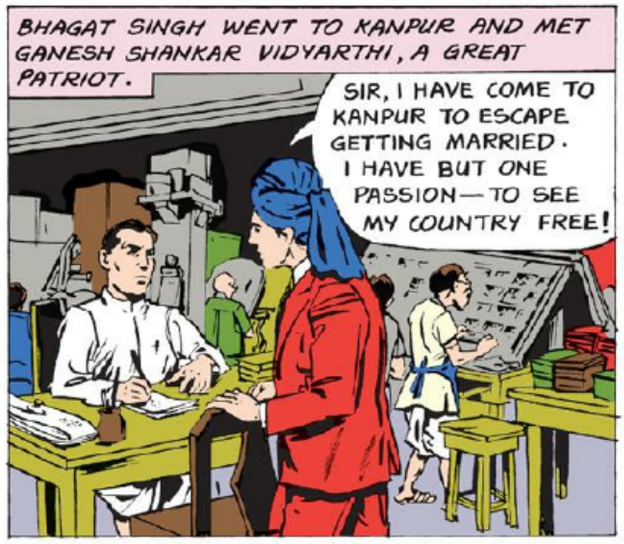
HOW WILL YOU DO THAT ? OUR PEOPLE ARE ILLITERATE. AND THEY FIND LONG SPEECHES TIRESOME.
I KNOW WHAT THEY LIKE MOST— PLAYS AND MUSIC.

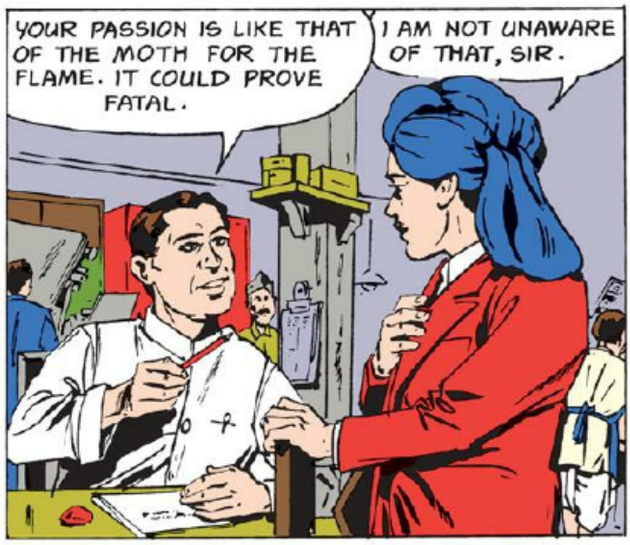
BHAGAT SINGH BEGAN TO ACT IN PLAYS LIKE 'RANA PRATAP' STAGED BY THE NATIONAL DRAMATIC CLUB.
DEFENDING ONE'S MOTHERLAND IS A SACRED TASK. WE'LL DO IT TO THE LAST DROP OF OUR BLOOD. NO SACRIFICE IS TOO BIG FOR FREEDOM.

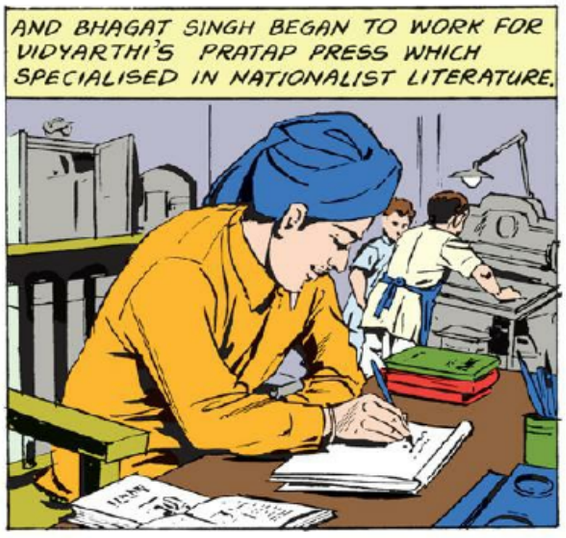
THEN ONE DAY—
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BHAGAT ?
MY FATHER WANTS ME TO GET MARRIED TO PLEASE MY GRANDMOTHER. THIS IS THE SECOND LETTER FROM HIM ON THE SUBJECT.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR ANSWER ?
THAT AS LONG AS MY COUNTRY IS HELD IN SLAVERY, THE ONLY BRIDE I WILL EMBRACE IS DEATH.

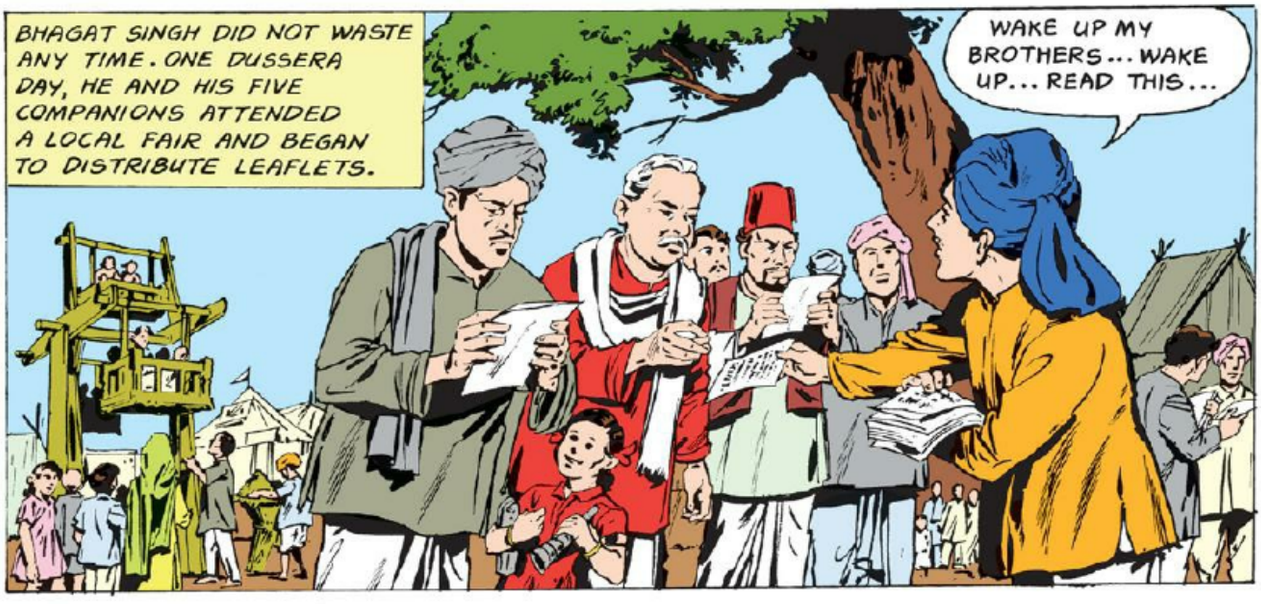
BUT BHAGAT, YOUR GRAND-MOTHER WILL NOT ...
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I HAVE DECIDED TO RUN AWAY.


BHAGAT SINGH WENT TO KANPUR AND MET GANESH SHANKAR VIDYARTHI, A GREAT PATRIOT.
SIR, I HAVE COME TO KANPUR TO ESCAPE GETTING MARRIED. I HAVE BUT ONE PASSION—TO SEE MY COUNTRY FREE!


YOUR PASSION IS LIKE THAT OF THE MOTH FOR THE FLAME. IT COULD PROVE FATAL.
I AM NOT UNAWARE OF THAT, SIR.


AND BHAGAT SINGH BEGAN TO WORK FOR VIDYARTHI'S PRATAP PRESS WHICH SPECIALISED IN NATIONALIST LITERATURE.

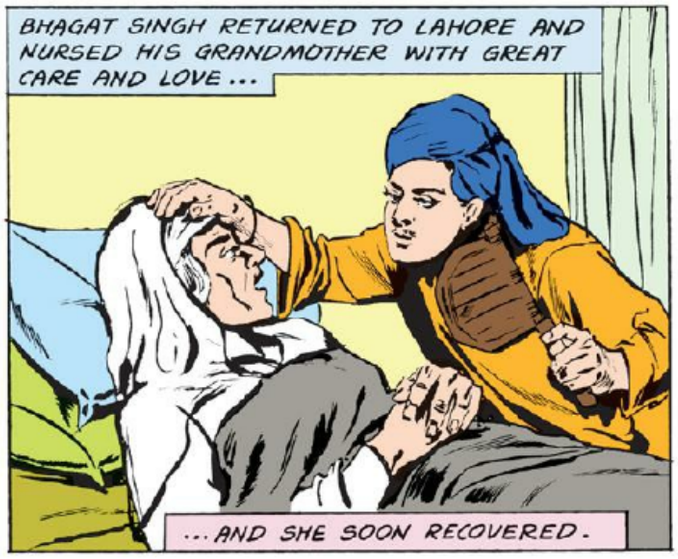
HE JOINED THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLIC ASSOCIATION.
WE MUST EDUCATE OUR PEOPLE ON THE NEED FOR FREEDOM.
LEAVE THAT TO US, SIR.

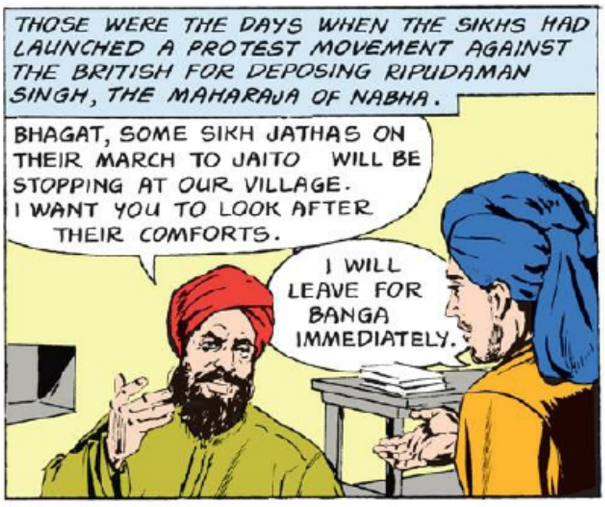

BHAGAT SINGH DID NOT WASTE ANY TIME. ONE DUSSERA DAY, HE AND HIS FIVE COMPANIONS ATTENDED A LOCAL FAIR AND BEGAN TO DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS.
WAKE UP MY BROTHERS... WAKE UP... READ THIS...

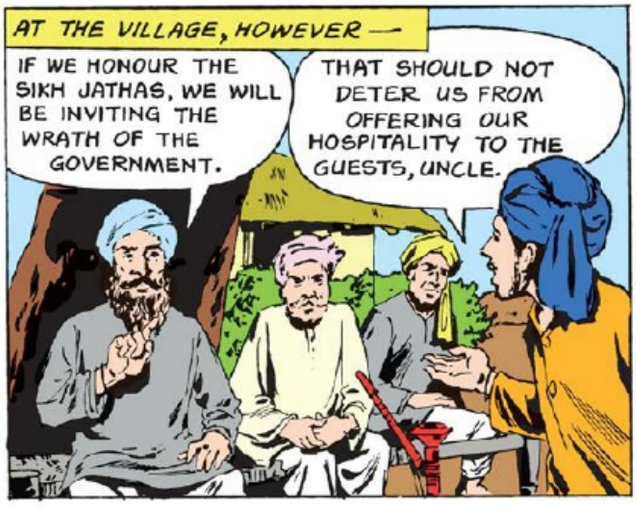
SOON THEY COLLECTED A HUGE CROWD. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF A FEW POLICEMEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES.
YOU WANT TO WAKE UP YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, DO YOU?
THEY HAVE CAUGHT TWO OF OUR FRIENDS.
DON'T WORRY.
BHAGAT SINGH FLUNG THE BUNCH OF LEAFLETS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
WHEN THE CROWD MADE A BEE-LINE FOR THEM, HE WENT TO THE POLICEMEN.
LOOK! THOSE MISCHIEF-MONGERS ARE STILL DISTRIBUTING THE LEAFLETS.
ALMOST ALL THE POLICEMEN RUSHED TO THE OTHER SIDE TO ARREST THE 'CULPRITS'.
ONLY TWO OF THEM ARE LEFT TO GUARD OUR FRIENDS.

THE NEXT MOMENT—
WHY DON'T YOU GO AND HELP YOUR FRIENDS TO ARREST THE MISCREANTS?
AS BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS FRIENDS SPED AWAY—
WE HAVE BEEN DUPED! CHASE THEM!
WE ARE BEING CHASED.
THIS SHOULD STOP THEM.
AS ANTICIPATED, THE FRIGHTENED POLICEMEN GAVE UP THE CHASE.

BHAGAT SINGH'S STAY IN KANPUR CAME TO AN ABRUPT END. HE HAD TO LEAVE FOR LAHORE. HIS GRANDMOTHER WAS SERIOUSLY ILL.
YOU CAN GO HOME WITHOUT HESITATION. YOUR FATHER HAS SENT WORD THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED TO GET MARRIED.


BHAGAT SINGH RETURNED TO LAHORE AND NURSED HIS GRANDMOTHER WITH GREAT CARE AND LOVE...
...AND SHE SOON RECOVERED.


THOSE WERE THE DAYS WHEN THE SIKHS HAD LAUNCHED A PROTEST MOVEMENT AGAINST THE BRITISH FOR DEPOSING RIPUDAMAN SINGH, THE MAHARAJA OF NABHA.
BHAGAT, SOME SIKH JATHAS ON THEIR MARCH TO JAITO WILL BE STOPPING AT OUR VILLAGE. I WANT YOU TO LOOK AFTER THEIR COMFORTS.
I WILL LEAVE FOR BANGA IMMEDIATELY.


AT THE VILLAGE, HOWEVER —
IF WE HONOUR THE SIKH JATHAS, WE WILL BE INVITING THE WRATH OF THE GOVERNMENT.
THAT SHOULD NOT DETER US FROM OFFERING OUR HOSPITALITY TO THE GUESTS, UNCLE.

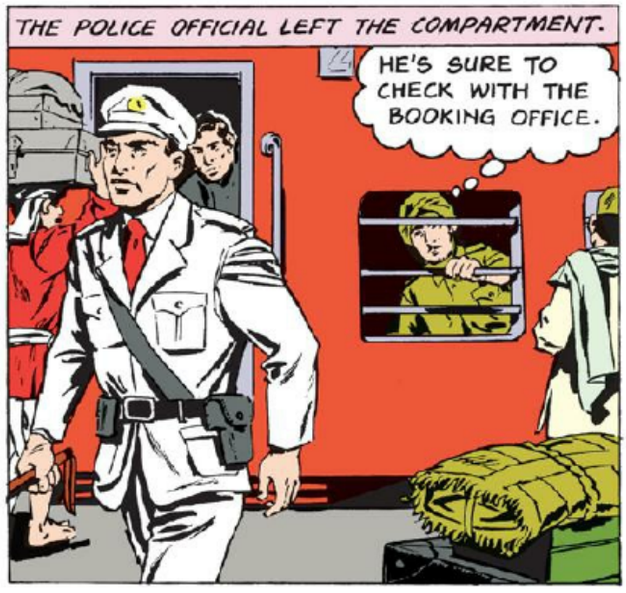
BHAGAT SINGH HAD HIS WAY. LATER —
GOD BLESS YOU, SON. YOU HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO MAKE OUR STAY COMFORTABLE.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT, AS EXPECTED, WAS ANNOYED.
YOU'D BETTER RUN, BROTHER. WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.
THANK YOU FOR THE TIP.
BHAGAT SINGH FLED TO LAHORE.
AT LAHORE, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS FRIENDS FORMED AN ASSOCIATION CALLED "NAV JAWAN BHARAT SABHA".
I PROMISE TO PLACE THE INTERESTS OF MY COUNTRY ABOVE THOSE OF MY COMMUNITY...
NAV JAWAN BHARAT SABHA
THE SABHA WORKED FOR PATRIOTIC CAUSES LIKE THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT.
THE SABHA OBSERVED MARTYRS' DAY IN MEMORY OF RAMPRASAD BISMIL, ASHFAQULLAH KHAN AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARIES WHO HAD BEEN HANGED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
BISMILJI AND ASHFAQULLAH DIED AT THE GALLOWS, SMILING. OUR HOMAGE TO THEM CAN ONLY BE IN CARRYING ON THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.
IN SEPTEMBER 1928, REVOLUTIONARIES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF INDIA MET IN DELHI. CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD, THE HEAD OF THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION, INITIATED THE DISCUSSION.
THE COUNTRY IS RESTLESS. FREEDOM IS TO BE WON, NOT TO BE BEGGED FOR. WE MUST ORGANISE OURSELVES ON A WAR FOOTING.
I AGREE WITH YOU, AZAD.
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING —
NOW LET'S DISPERSE. WE MUST BE CAREFUL. THE POLICE KNOW THAT WE ARE MEETING IN DELHI ALTHOUGH THEY DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE.

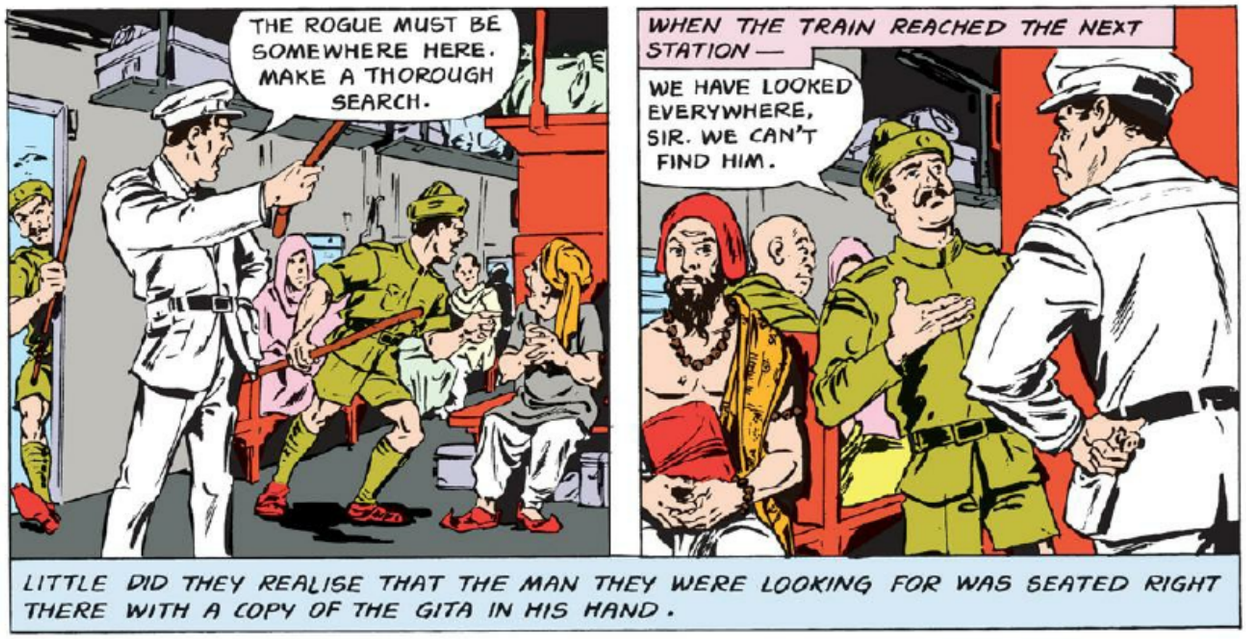
THEN, DRESSED AS A POLICE CONSTABLE, BHAGAT SINGH LEFT FOR LAHORE.
AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION A POLICE OFFICIAL ENTERED HIS COMPARTMENT.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME? WHICH POLICE STATION ARE YOU ATTACHED TO AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?
SIR, I AM KARTAR SINGH FROM NIHAL SINGH WALA POLICE STATION. I ESCORTED SOME PRISONERS TO DELHI.

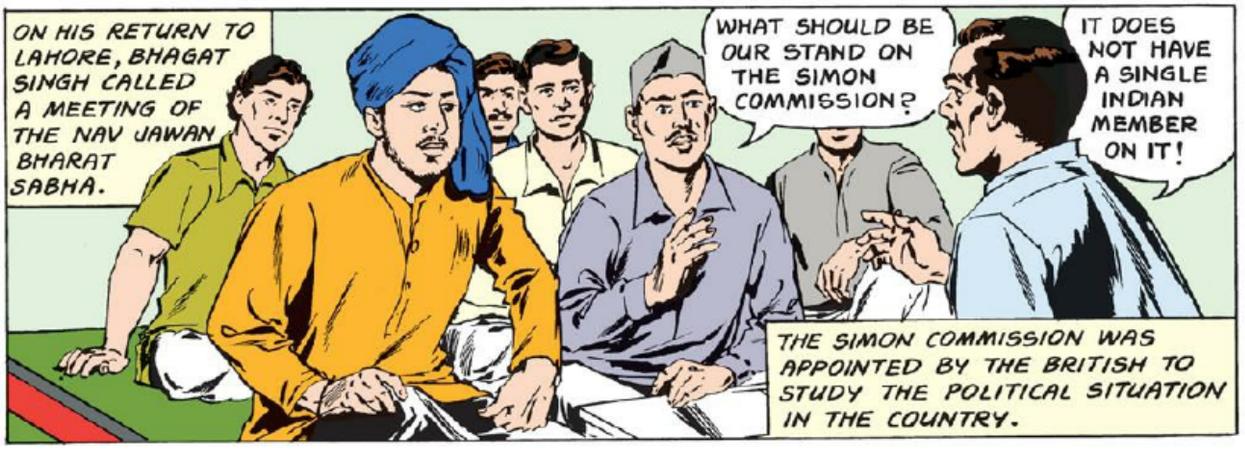
SHOW ME YOUR RAILWAY PASS.
MY COLLEAGUE HAS GONE TO GET IT ENDORSED.

I SEE.
I DON'T THINK HE BELIEVES ME.

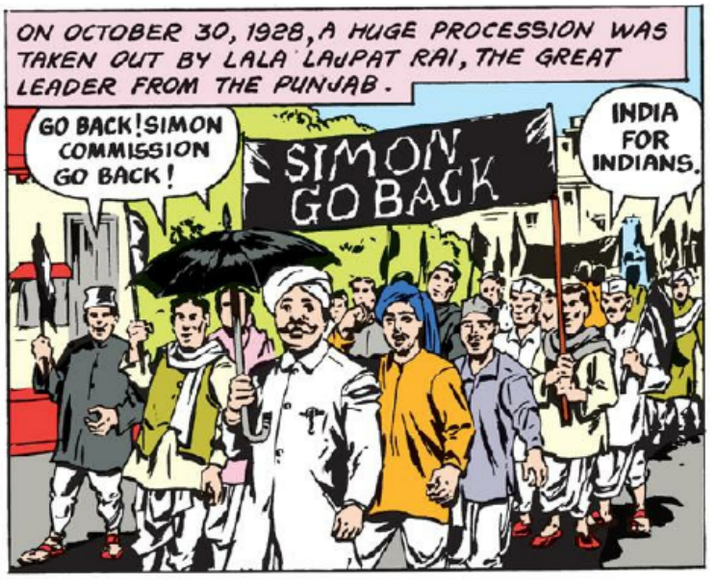

THE POLICE OFFICIAL LEFT THE COMPARTMENT.
HE'S SURE TO CHECK WITH THE BOOKING OFFICE.

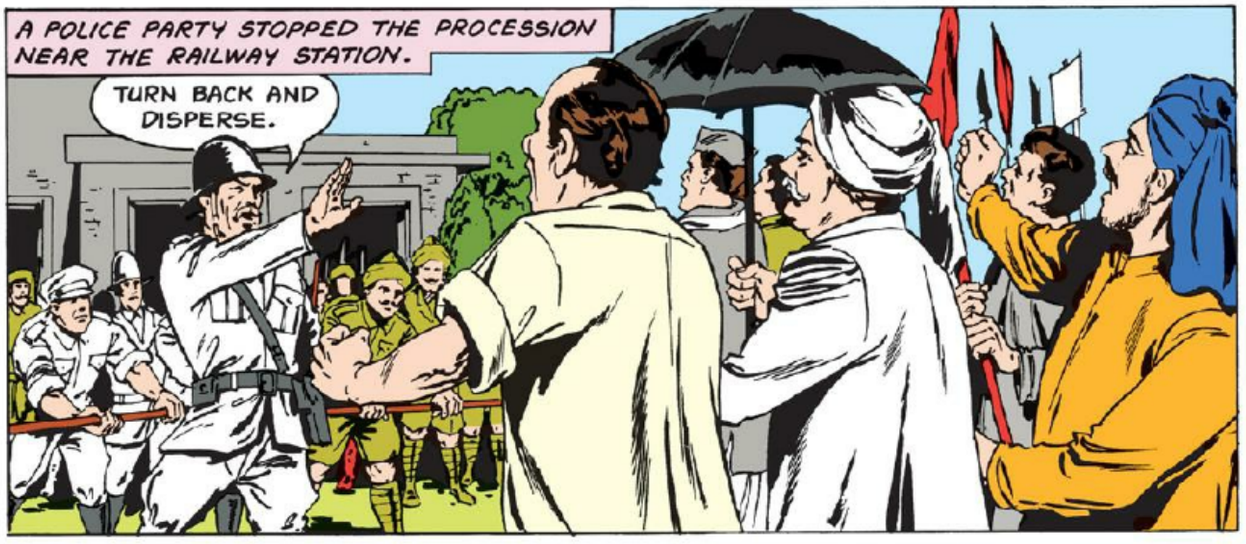
BHAGAT SINGH ENTERED ANOTHER COMPARTMENT AND LOCKED HIMSELF UP IN THE LAVATORY. AS THE TRAIN BEGAN TO LEAVE THE STATION, THE POLICE OFFICIAL RETURNED WITH A FEW CONSTABLES...
...AND BOARDED IT.


THE ROGUE MUST BE SOMEWHERE HERE. MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH.
WHEN THE TRAIN REACHED THE NEXT STATION —
WE HAVE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, SIR. WE CAN'T FIND HIM.
LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT THE MAN THEY WERE LOOKING FOR WAS SEATED RIGHT THERE WITH A COPY OF THE GITA IN HIS HAND.


ON HIS RETURN TO LAHORE, BHAGAT SINGH CALLED A MEETING OF THE NAV JAWAN BHARAT SABHA.
WHAT SHOULD BE OUR STAND ON THE SIMON COMMISSION?
IT DOES NOT HAVE A SINGLE INDIAN MEMBER ON IT!
THE SIMON COMMISSION WAS APPOINTED BY THE BRITISH TO STUDY THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

WE MUST JOIN THE ALL-PARTIES PROCESSION AGAINST THE VISIT OF THE SIMON COMMISSION.


ON OCTOBER 30, 1928, A HUGE PROCESSION WAS TAKEN OUT BY LALA LAJPAT RAI, THE GREAT LEADER FROM THE PUNJAB.
GO BACK! SIMON COMMISSION GO BACK!
SIMON GO BACK
INDIA FOR INDIANS.


A POLICE PARTY STOPPED THE PROCESSION NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION.
TURN BACK AND DISPERSE.

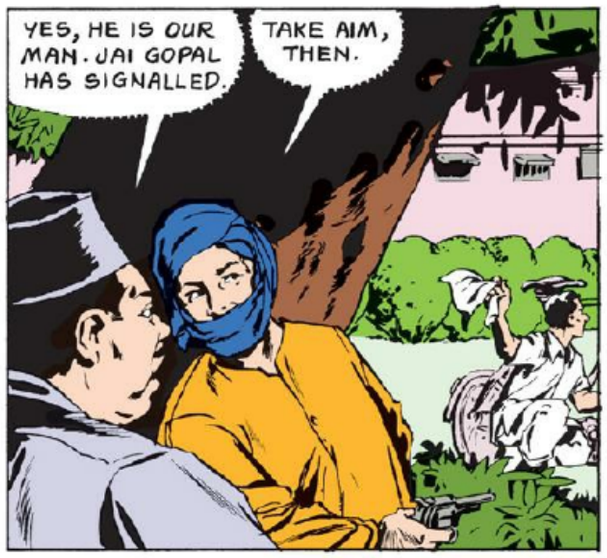
BUT LALAJI MARCHED AHEAD. THEN THE POLICE RESORTED TO A LATHI CHARGE.
IT IS BARBAROUS TO ATTACK UNARMED, AND NON-VIOLENT PEOPLE.

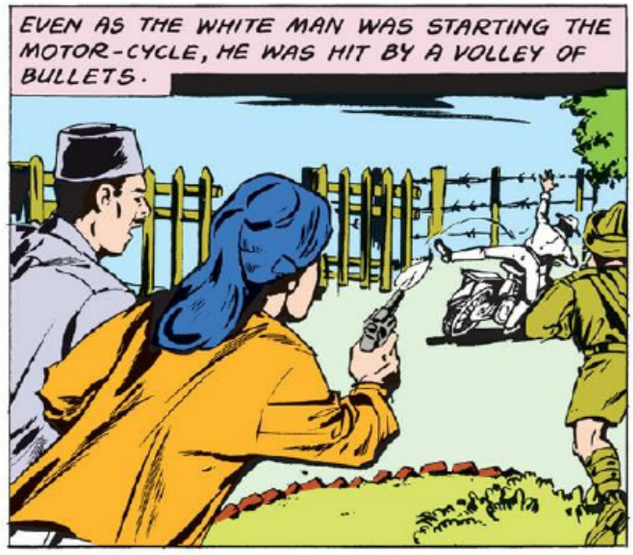
ONE LATHI CAME DOWN ON THE UMBRELLA WHICH LALAJI WAS HOLDING.
NO!

BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADES THREW A CORDON ROUND LALAJI. YET HE WAS HIT ON HIS SHOULDER AND CHEST.

LATER IN THE EVENING —
DO YOU KNOW WHAT LALAJI SAID?
YES, I DO. THE LION OF THE PUNJAB ROARED: I DECLARE THAT EVERY BLOW THEY HURLED AT US DROVE ONE MORE NAIL INTO THE COFFIN OF THE EMPIRE.

LALAJI NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE BLOWS HE RECEIVED. HE DIED TWO WEEKS LATER.
LALAJI'S NON-VIOLENCE WAS REWARDED WITH FATAL BLOWS.
THIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS ONLY ONE LANGUAGE—BLOOD FOR BLOOD.
CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD NOW ARRIVED IN LAHORE TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR REVENGE.
FRIENDS, WE ARE FIGHTING A WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. THE BRITISH HAVE SOLDIERS, WEAPONS AND UNLIMITED RESOURCES. WE HAVE ONLY THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE.
TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF ONE INDIAN, TEN ENGLISHMEN MUST DIE. AND SINCE SCOTT, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE RAISED HIS LATHI AGAINST LALAJI, HE SHALL DIE FIRST.
ON DECEMBER 17, 1928, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADE, RAJGURU TOOK THEIR POSITIONS NEAR THE POLICE STATION.
JAIGOPAL WILL SIGNAL TO US AS SOON AS SCOTT COMES OUT.
POLICE STATION
D.A.V. COL
JAIGOPAL WHO HAD STATIONED HIMSELF JUST OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION WAS PRETENDING TO REPAIR HIS BICYCLE.
LOOK! THAT OFFICER IS WALKING TOWARDS THE MOTOR-CYCLE. IS HE SCOTT?

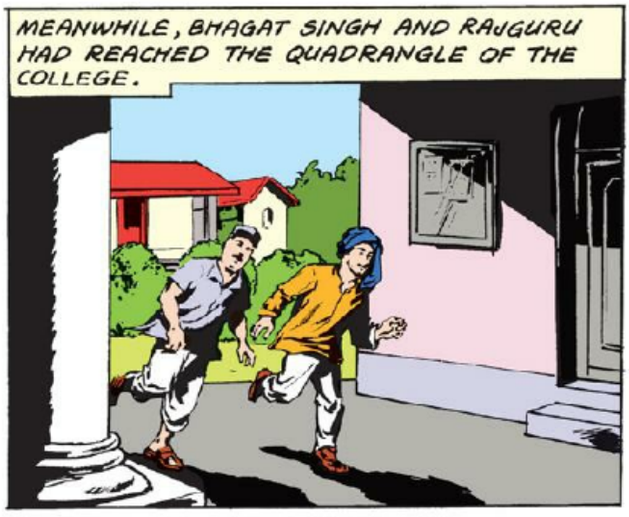

YES, HE IS OUR MAN. JAI GOPAL HAS SIGNALLED.
TAKE AIM, THEN.


EVEN AS THE WHITE MAN WAS STARTING THE MOTOR-CYCLE, HE WAS HIT BY A VOLLEY OF BULLETS.

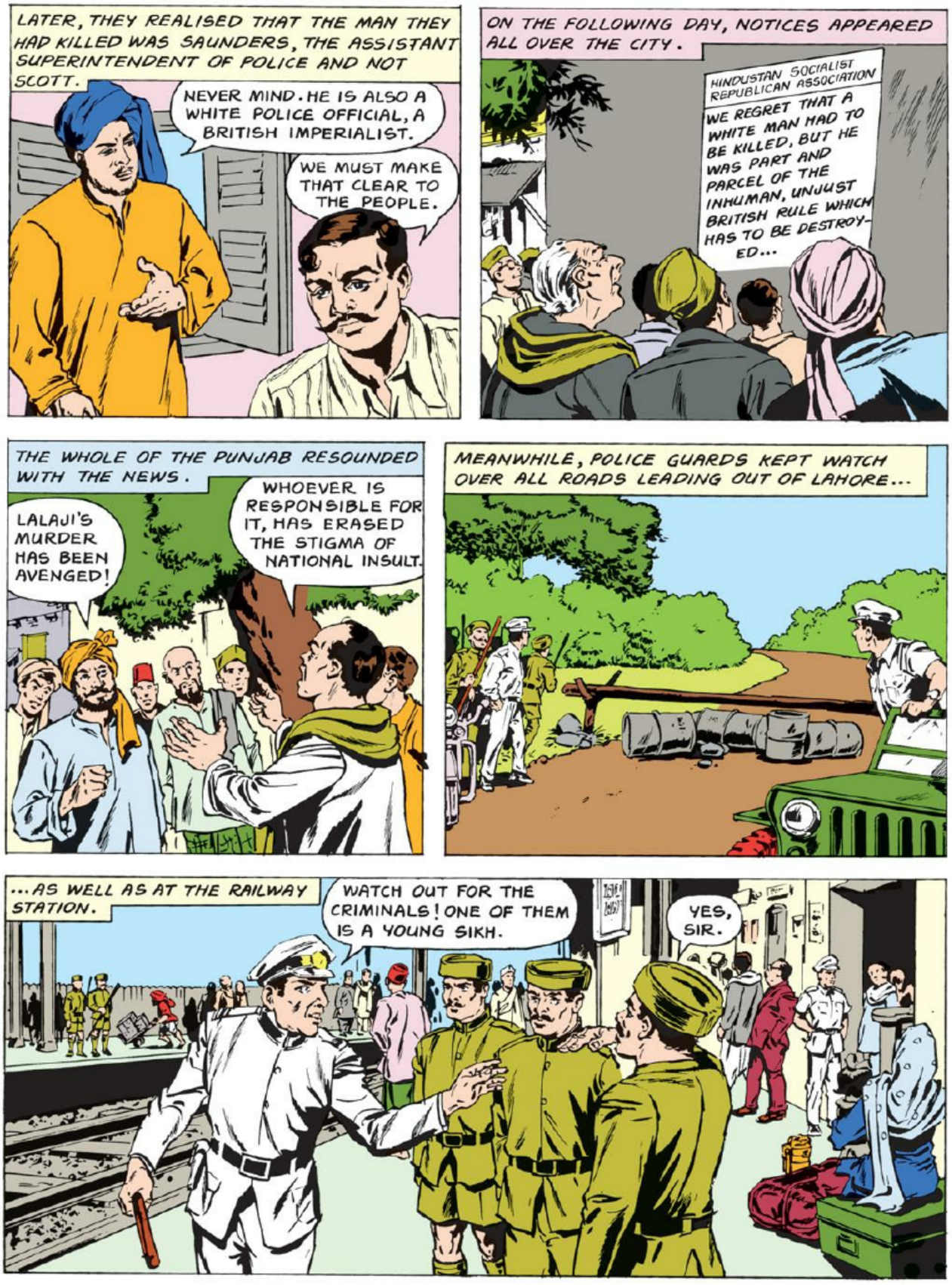
AS BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU RAN TOWARDS THE D.A.V. COLLEGE JUST OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION, THEY WERE CHASED BY A POLICE CONSTABLE.
KEEP RUNNING. AZAD AND SUKHDEV WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

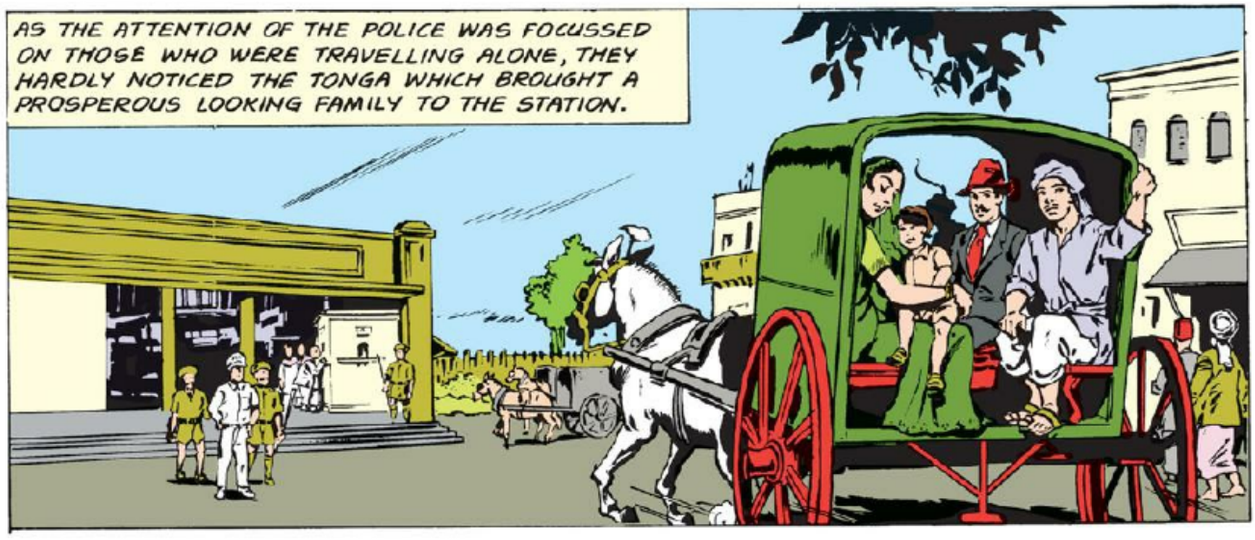
AZAD DID NOT FAIL THEM. HE WAS READY.
ONE STEP FORWARD AND I'LL SHOOT. GO BACK!

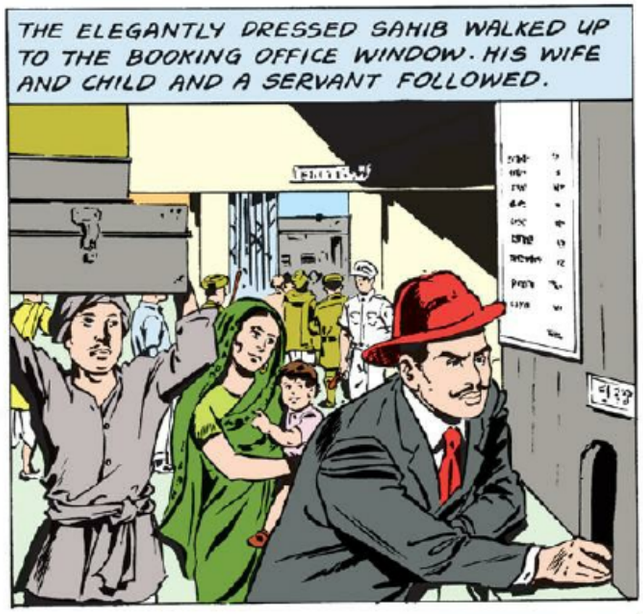
THE CONSTABLE IGNORED THE WARNING AND PAID FOR IT WITH HIS LIFE.

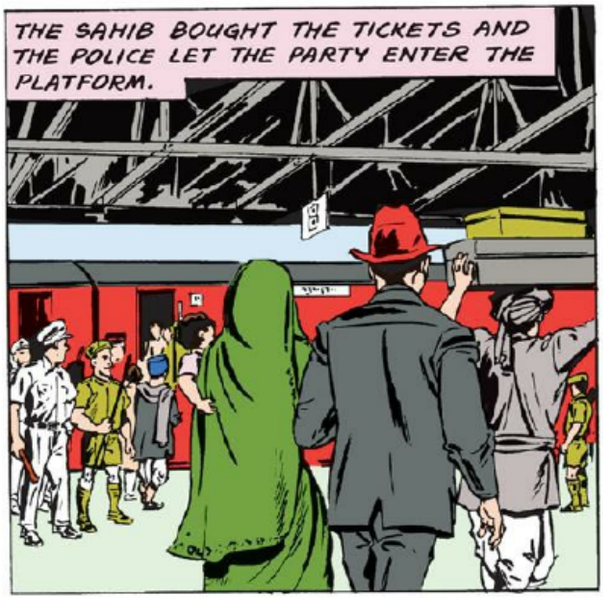

MEANWHILE, BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU HAD REACHED THE QUADRANGLE OF THE COLLEGE.

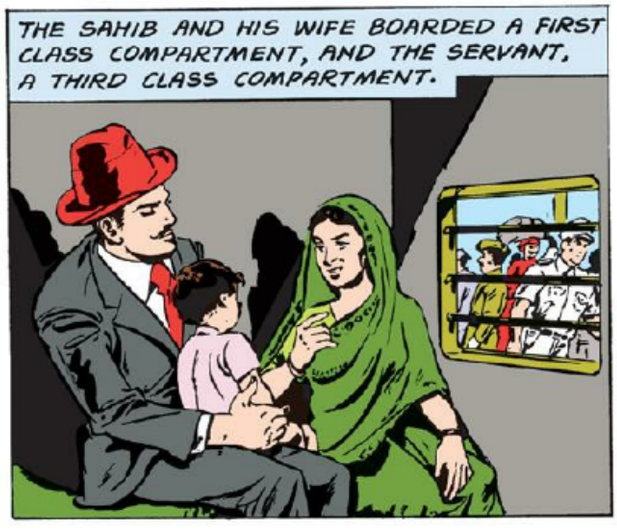
THEY WENT UP TO THE FIRST FLOOR...
...ENTERED A ROOM...
...SCRAMBLED OUT OF THE WINDOW...
...SLITHERED DOWN A WATER-PIPE AND...
...MOUNTING THE BICYCLE LEFT THERE FOR THEM...
... GOT AWAY.

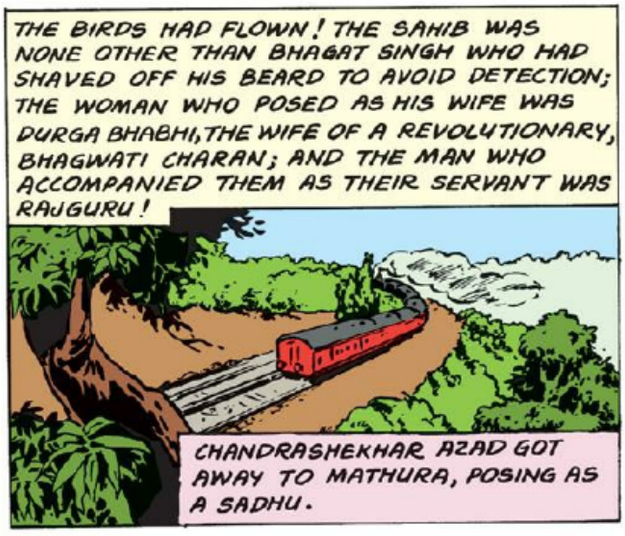

LATER, THEY REALISED THAT THE MAN THEY HAD KILLED WAS SAUNDERS, THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND NOT SCOTT.
NEVER MIND. HE IS ALSO A WHITE POLICE OFFICIAL, A BRITISH IMPERIALIST.
WE MUST MAKE THAT CLEAR TO THE PEOPLE.
ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, NOTICES APPEARED ALL OVER THE CITY.
HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION
WE REGRET THAT A WHITE MAN HAD TO BE KILLED, BUT HE WAS PART AND PARCEL OF THE INHUMAN, UNJUST BRITISH RULE WHICH HAS TO BE DESTROYED...
THE WHOLE OF THE PUNJAB RESOUNDED WITH THE NEWS.
LALAJI'S MURDER HAS BEEN AVENGED!
WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT, HAS ERASED THE STIGMA OF NATIONAL INSULT.
MEANWHILE, POLICE GUARDS KEPT WATCH OVER ALL ROADS LEADING OUT OF LAHORE...
...AS WELL AS AT THE RAILWAY STATION.
WATCH OUT FOR THE CRIMINALS! ONE OF THEM IS A YOUNG SIKH.
YES, SIR.

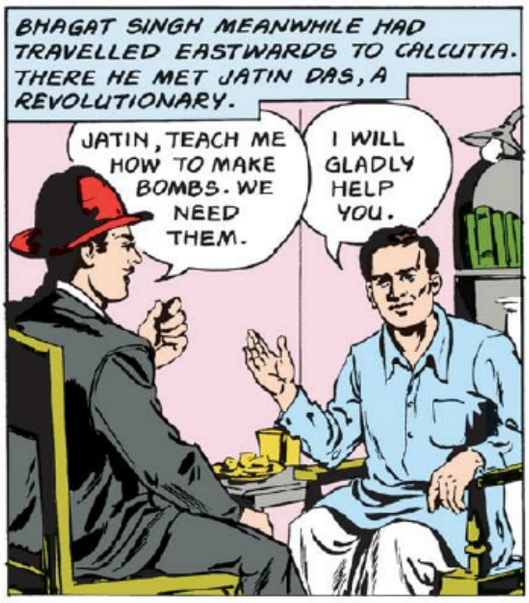

AS THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE WAS FOCUSSED ON THOSE WHO WERE TRAVELLING ALONE, THEY HARDLY NOTICED THE TONGA WHICH BROUGHT A PROSPEROUS LOOKING FAMILY TO THE STATION.

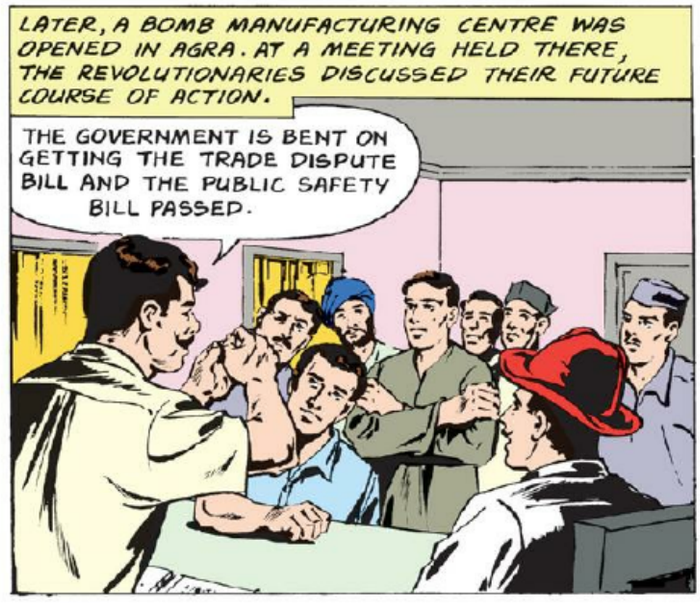

THE ELEGANTLY DRESSED SAHIB WALKED UP TO THE BOOKING OFFICE WINDOW. HIS WIFE AND CHILD AND A SERVANT FOLLOWED.

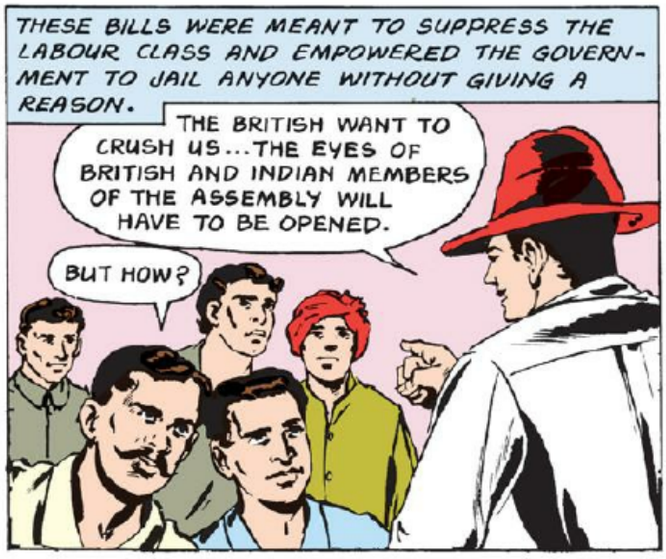

THE SAHIB BOUGHT THE TICKETS AND THE POLICE LET THE PARTY ENTER THE PLATFORM.

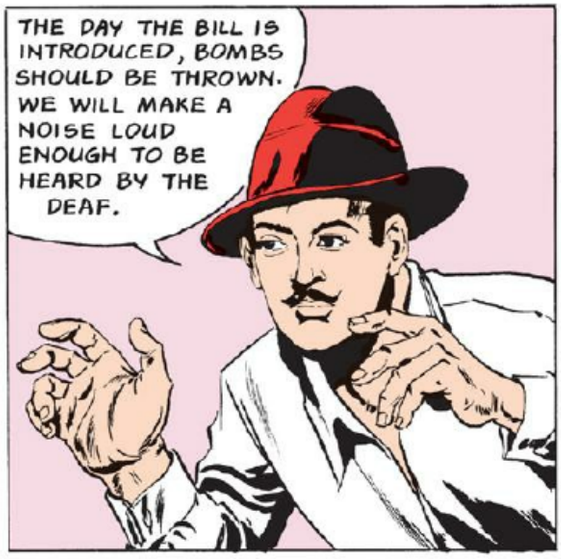

THE SAHIB AND HIS WIFE BOARDED A FIRST CLASS COMPARTMENT, AND THE SERVANT, A THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENT.

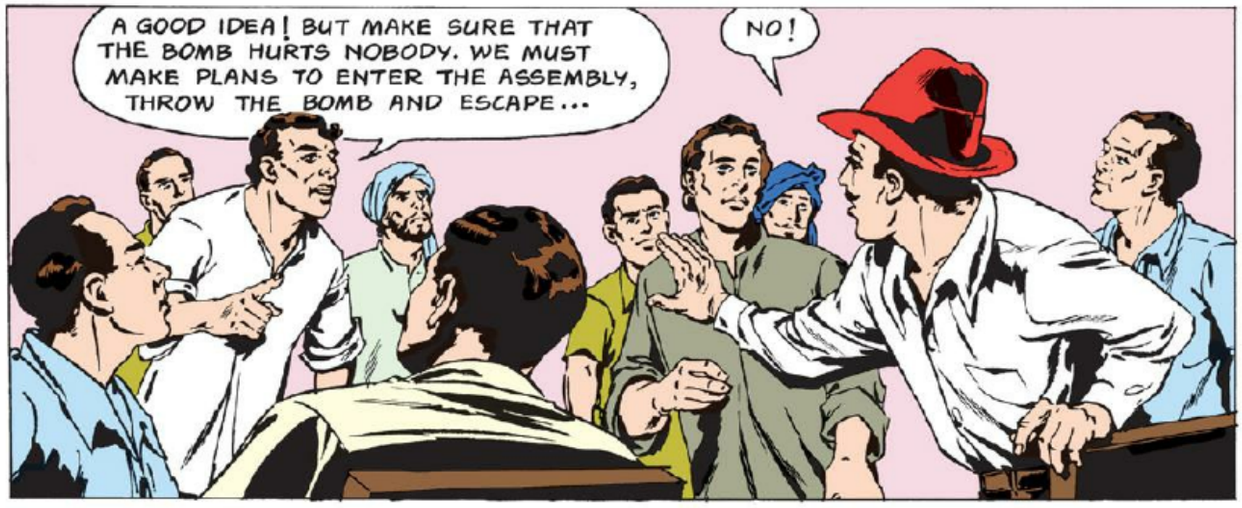

THE BIRDS HAD FLOWN! THE SAHIB WAS NONE OTHER THAN BHAGAT SINGH WHO HAD SHAVED OFF HIS BEARD TO AVOID DETECTION; THE WOMAN WHO POSED AS HIS WIFE WAS DURGA BHABHI, THE WIFE OF A REVOLUTIONARY, BHAGWATI CHARAN; AND THE MAN WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM AS THEIR SERVANT WAS RAJGURU!
CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD GOT AWAY TO MATHURA, POSING AS A SADHU.


BHAGAT SINGH MEANWHILE HAD TRAVELLED EASTWARDS TO CALCUTTA. THERE HE MET JATIN DAS, A REVOLUTIONARY.
JATIN, TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE BOMBS. WE NEED THEM.
I WILL GLADLY HELP YOU.

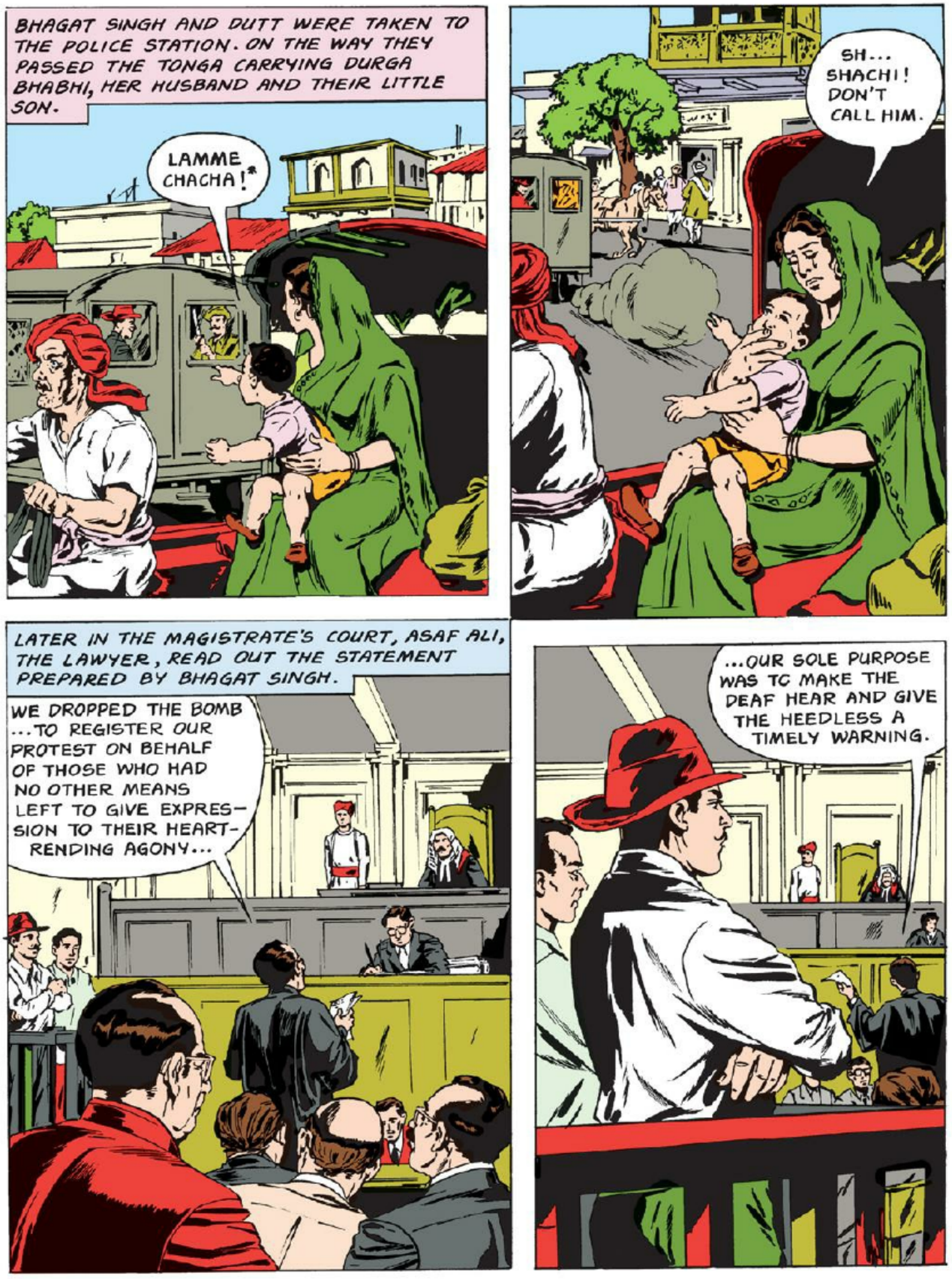

LATER, A BOMB MANUFACTURING CENTRE WAS OPENED IN AGRA. AT A MEETING HELD THERE, THE REVOLUTIONARIES DISCUSSED THEIR FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION.
THE GOVERNMENT IS BENT ON GETTING THE TRADE DISPUTE BILL AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY BILL PASSED.


THESE BILLS WERE MEANT TO SUPPRESS THE LABOUR CLASS AND EMPOWERED THE GOVERNMENT TO JAIL ANYONE WITHOUT GIVING A REASON.
THE BRITISH WANT TO CRUSH US... THE EYES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE TO BE OPENED.
BUT HOW?


THE DAY THE BILL IS INTRODUCED, BOMBS SHOULD BE THROWN. WE WILL MAKE A NOISE LOUD ENOUGH TO BE HEARD BY THE DEAF.

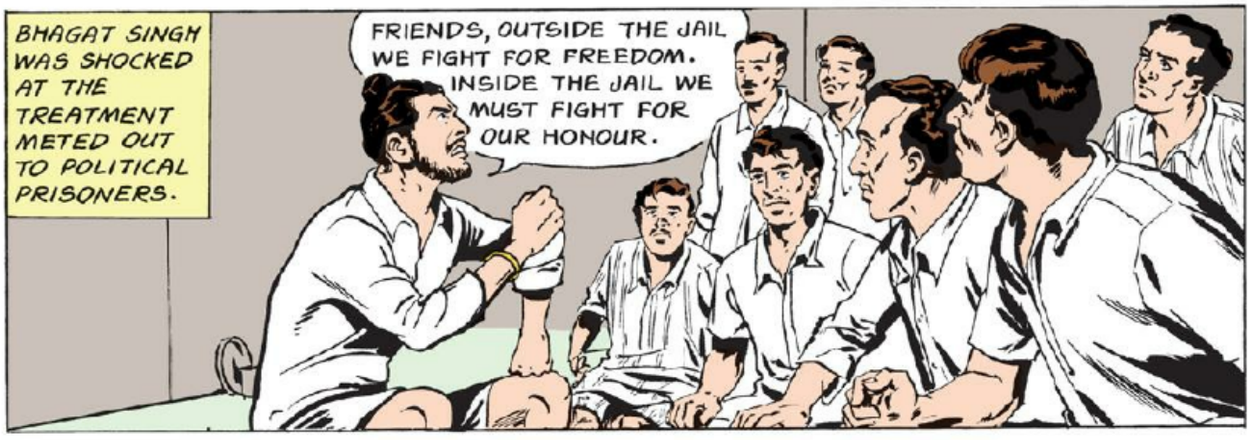

A GOOD IDEA! BUT MAKE SURE THAT THE BOMB HURTS NOBODY. WE MUST MAKE PLANS TO ENTER THE ASSEMBLY, THROW THE BOMB AND ESCAPE...
NO!

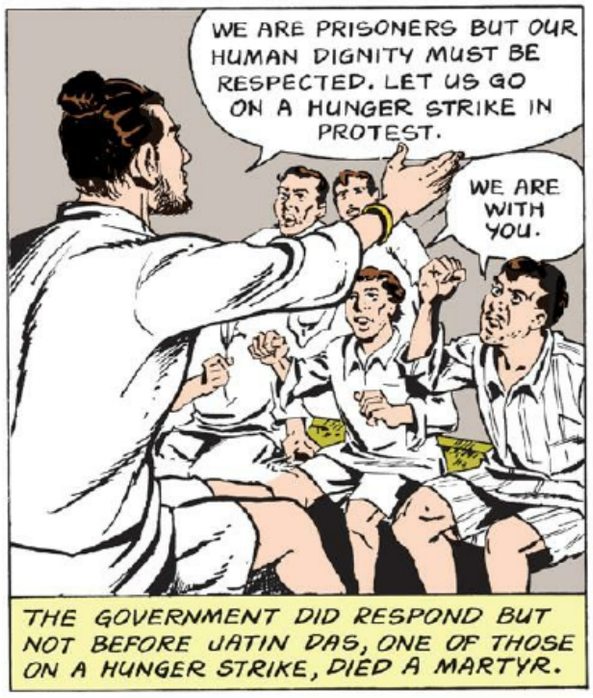
THE ONE WHO THROWS THE BOMB SHOULD COURT ARREST. LATER HE SHOULD USE THE COURT AS A PLATFORM TO EXPRESS OUR IDEOLOGY... TO ROUSE PUBLIC OPINION. OUR ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL WILL ACT AS A DAILY REMINDER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE OBJECTIVES THEY HAVE BEFORE THEM.
SO ON APRIL 8, 1929 WHEN THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY MET TO DISCUSS THE BILLS, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMPANION, BATUKESHWAR DUTT, STOOD UP IN THE VISITORS' GALLERY.
INQUILAB ZINDABAD!
THE BOMB WAS THROWN. IT HURT NOBODY. SOME LEAFLETS TOO WERE THROWN.
THE TWO REVOLUTIONARIES CONTINUED TO SHOUT SLOGANS TILL THE POLICE CAME FOR THEM. THEY DID NOT RESIST ARREST.
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.
DON'T WORRY. WE SHALL TELL THE WHOLE WORLD WE DID IT.

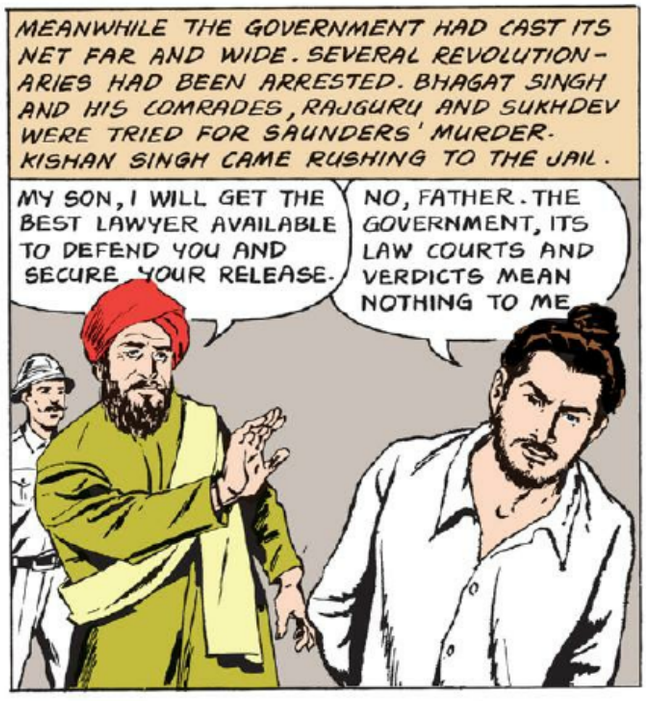

BHAGAT SINGH AND DUTT WERE TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION. ON THE WAY THEY PASSED THE TONGA CARRYING DURGA BHABHI, HER HUSBAND AND THEIR LITTLE SON.
LAMME CHACHA!*
SH... SHACHI! DON'T CALL HIM.
LATER IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT, ASAF ALI, THE LAWYER, READ OUT THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY BHAGAT SINGH.
WE DROPPED THE BOMB ...TO REGISTER OUR PROTEST ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO HAD NO OTHER MEANS LEFT TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THEIR HEART-RENDING AGONY...
...OUR SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO MAKE THE DEAF HEAR AND GIVE THE HEEDLESS A TIMELY WARNING.

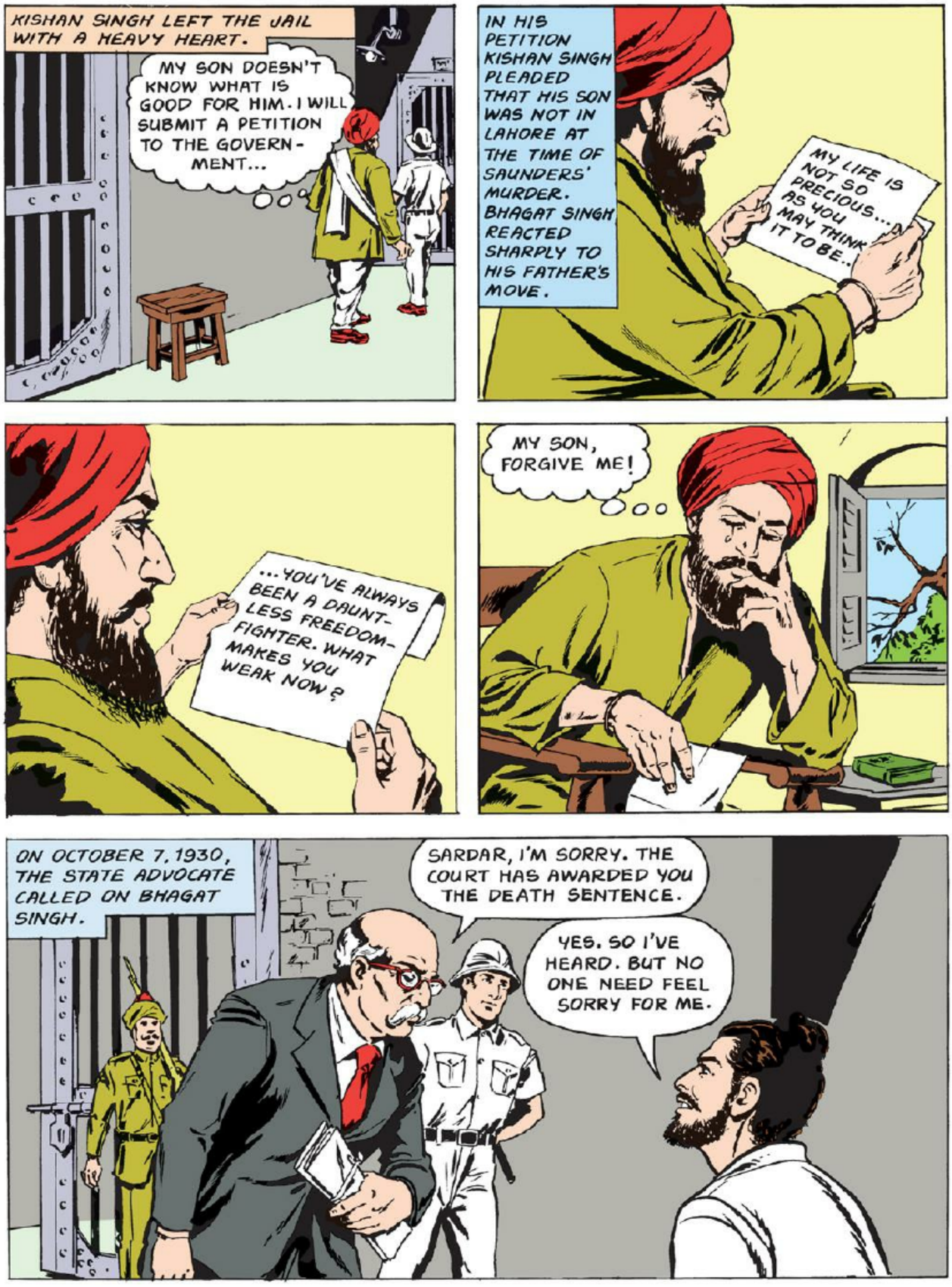
THE TWO REVOLUTIONARIES WERE SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE. THEY FILED AN APPEAL IN THE HIGH COURT.
GENERAL DYER KILLED HUNDREDS OF PERSONS IN JALLIANWALLA BAGH. HE WAS GIVEN LAKHS OF RUPEES AS A REWARD BY HIS COUNTRYMEN.
IN CONTRAST, WE THROW A WEAK BOMB ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS HURT. WE ARE TRIED AND GIVEN A LIFE SENTENCE.
OUR MOTIVE WAS NOT TO KILL, BUT TO MAKE OUR IDEALS HEARD AND ACCEPTED.
AS EXPECTED, THE HIGH COURT UPHELD THE JUDGEMENT OF THE SESSIONS COURT.
LATER BHAGAT SINGH WAS SHIFTED TO THE LAHORE CENTRAL JAIL.
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME BOOKS...
BOOKS? DO YOU THINK THIS IS A LIBRARY?

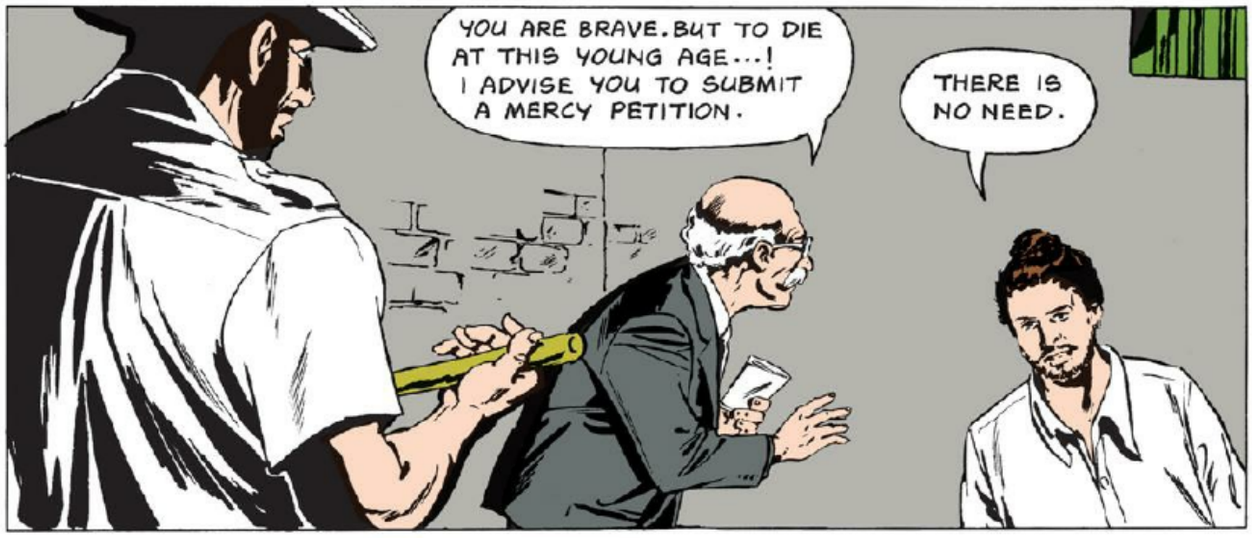
THAT NIGHT —
WHAT IS THIS? THIS FOOD IS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.
YOU ARE A CRIMINAL. BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU ARE GIVEN.


BHAGAT SINGH WAS SHOCKED AT THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.
FRIENDS, OUTSIDE THE JAIL WE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. INSIDE THE JAIL WE MUST FIGHT FOR OUR HONOUR.

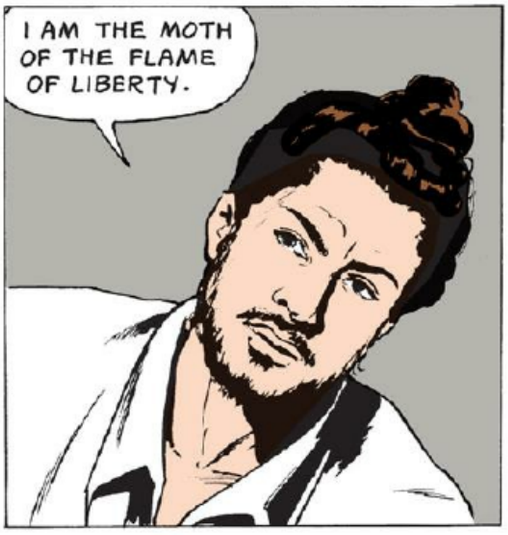

WE ARE PRISONERS BUT OUR HUMAN DIGNITY MUST BE RESPECTED. LET US GO ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN PROTEST.
WE ARE WITH YOU.
THE GOVERNMENT DID RESPOND BUT NOT BEFORE JATIN DAS, ONE OF THOSE ON A HUNGER STRIKE, DIED A MARTYR.

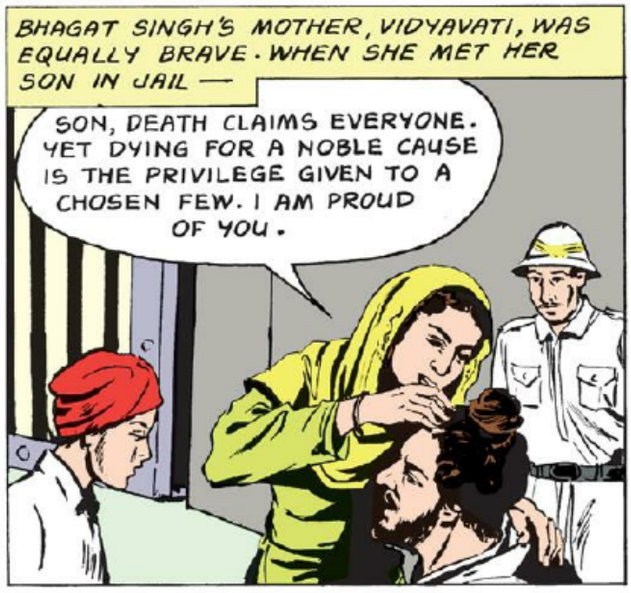

MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAD CAST ITS NET FAR AND WIDE. SEVERAL REVOLUTIONARIES HAD BEEN ARRESTED. BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADES, RAJGURU AND SUKHDEV WERE TRIED FOR SAUNDERS' MURDER. KISHAN SINGH CAME RUSHING TO THE JAIL.
MY SON, I WILL GET THE BEST LAWYER AVAILABLE TO DEFEND YOU AND SECURE YOUR RELEASE.
NO, FATHER. THE GOVERNMENT, ITS LAW COURTS AND VERDICTS MEAN NOTHING TO ME.

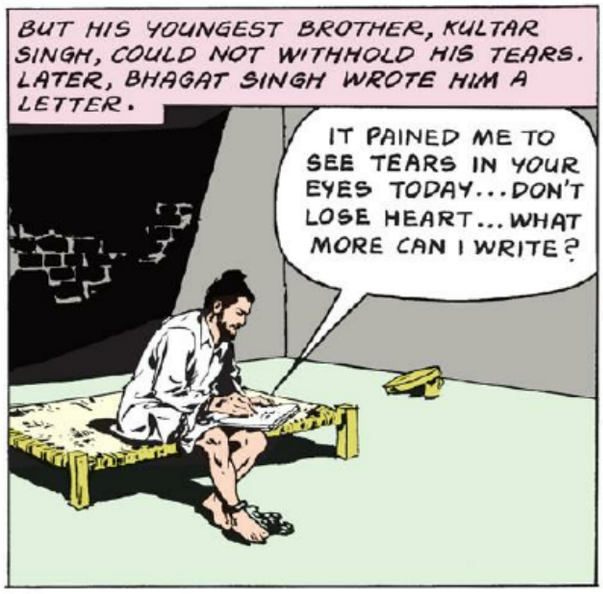

KISHAN SINGH LEFT THE JAIL WITH A HEAVY HEART.
MY SON DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR HIM. I WILL SUBMIT A PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT...
IN HIS PETITION KISHAN SINGH PLEADED THAT HIS SON WAS NOT IN LAHORE AT THE TIME OF SAUNDERS' MURDER. BHAGAT SINGH REACTED SHARPLY TO HIS FATHER'S MOVE.
MY LIFE IS NOT SO PRECIOUS... AS YOU MAY THINK IT TO BE..
...YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A DAUNTLESS FREEDOM-FIGHTER. WHAT MAKES YOU WEAK NOW?
MY SON, FORGIVE ME!
ON OCTOBER 7, 1930, THE STATE ADVOCATE CALLED ON BHAGAT SINGH.
SARDAR, I'M SORRY. THE COURT HAS AWARDED YOU THE DEATH SENTENCE.
YES. SO I'VE HEARD. BUT NO ONE NEED FEEL SORRY FOR ME.

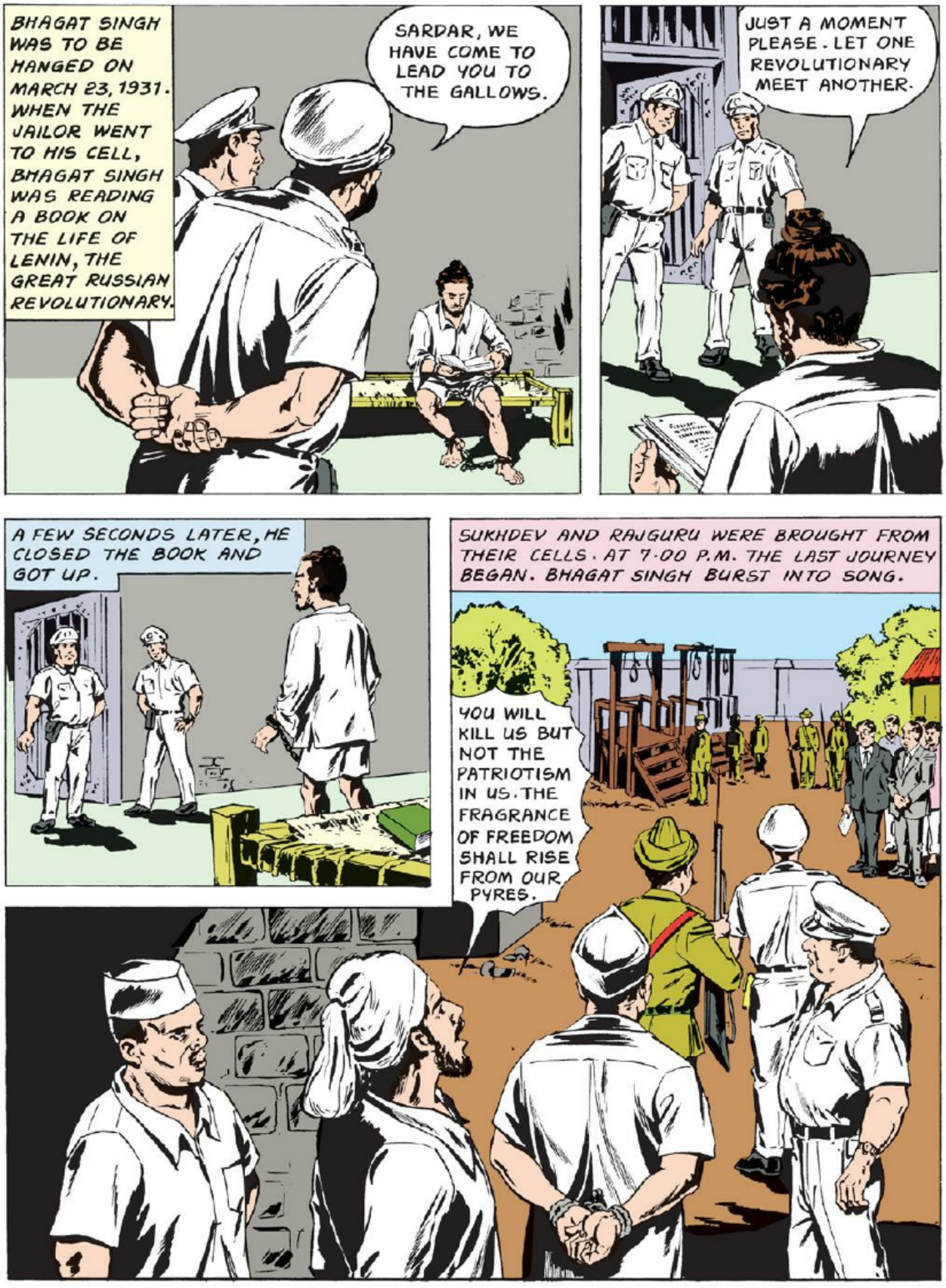

YOU ARE BRAVE. BUT TO DIE AT THIS YOUNG AGE...! I ADVISE YOU TO SUBMIT A MERCY PETITION.
THERE IS NO NEED.

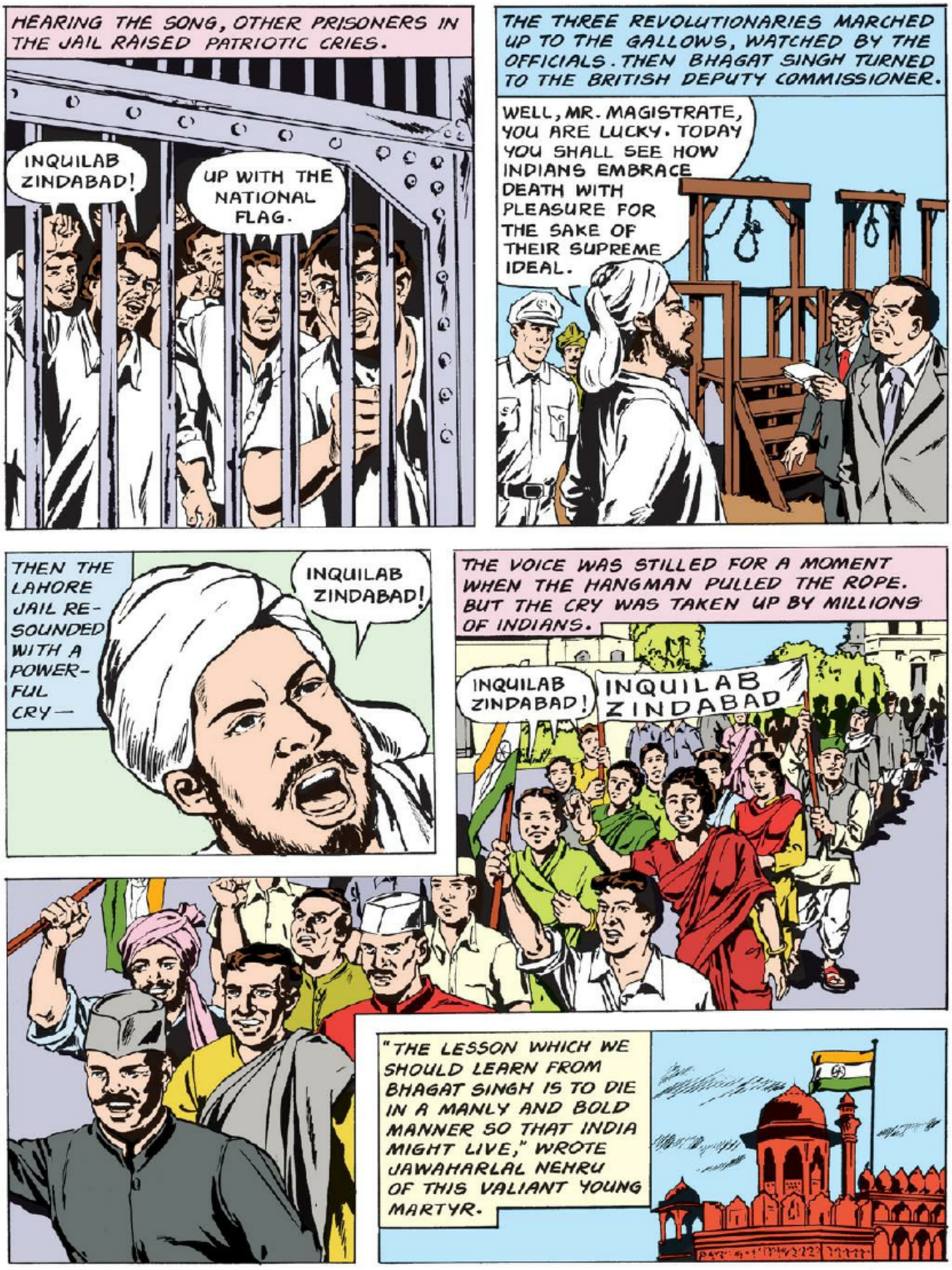
WHY NOT?
IT IS BETTER TO DIE BRAVELY THAN TO CRINGE BEFORE THE ENEMY.


I AM THE MOTH OF THE FLAME OF LIBERTY.


BHAGAT SINGH'S MOTHER, VIDYAVATI, WAS EQUALLY BRAVE. WHEN SHE MET HER SON IN JAIL —
SON, DEATH CLAIMS EVERYONE. YET DYING FOR A NOBLE CAUSE IS THE PRIVILEGE GIVEN TO A CHOSEN FEW. I AM PROUD OF YOU.


BUT HIS YOUNGEST BROTHER, KULTAR SINGH, COULD NOT WITHHOLD HIS TEARS. LATER, BHAGAT SINGH WROTE HIM A LETTER.
IT PAINED ME TO SEE TEARS IN YOUR EYES TODAY... DON'T LOSE HEART... WHAT MORE CAN I WRITE?


BHAGAT SINGH WAS TO BE HANGED ON MARCH 23, 1931. WHEN THE JAILOR WENT TO HIS CELL, BHAGAT SINGH WAS READING A BOOK ON THE LIFE OF LENIN, THE GREAT RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY.
SARDAR, WE HAVE COME TO LEAD YOU TO THE GALLOWS.
JUST A MOMENT PLEASE. LET ONE REVOLUTIONARY MEET ANOTHER.
A FEW SECONDS LATER, HE CLOSED THE BOOK AND GOT UP.
SUKHDEV AND RAJGURU WERE BROUGHT FROM THEIR CELLS. AT 7·00 P.M. THE LAST JOURNEY BEGAN. BHAGAT SINGH BURST INTO SONG.
YOU WILL KILL US BUT NOT THE PATRIOTISM IN US. THE FRAGRANCE OF FREEDOM SHALL RISE FROM OUR PYRES.


HEARING THE SONG, OTHER PRISONERS IN THE JAIL RAISED PATRIOTIC CRIES.
INQUILAB ZINDABAD!
UP WITH THE NATIONAL FLAG.
THE THREE REVOLUTIONARIES MARCHED UP TO THE GALLOWS, WATCHED BY THE OFFICIALS. THEN BHAGAT SINGH TURNED TO THE BRITISH DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.
WELL, MR. MAGISTRATE, YOU ARE LUCKY. TODAY YOU SHALL SEE HOW INDIANS EMBRACE DEATH WITH PLEASURE FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR SUPREME IDEAL.
THEN THE LAHORE JAIL RE-SOUNDED WITH A POWER-FUL CRY—
INQUILAB ZINDABAD!
THE VOICE WAS STILLED FOR A MOMENT WHEN THE HANGMAN PULLED THE ROPE. BUT THE CRY WAS TAKEN UP BY MILLIONS OF INDIANS.
INQUILAB ZINDABAD!
INQUILAB ZINDABAD
"THE LESSON WHICH WE SHOULD LEARN FROM BHAGAT SINGH IS TO DIE IN A MANLY AND BOLD MANNER SO THAT INDIA MIGHT LIVE," WROTE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU OF THIS VALIANT YOUNG MARTYR.

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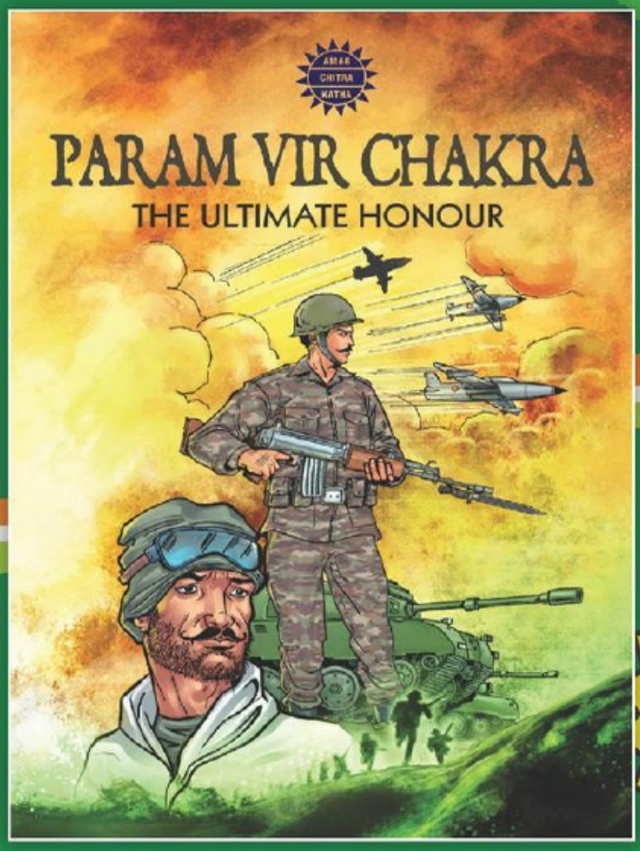

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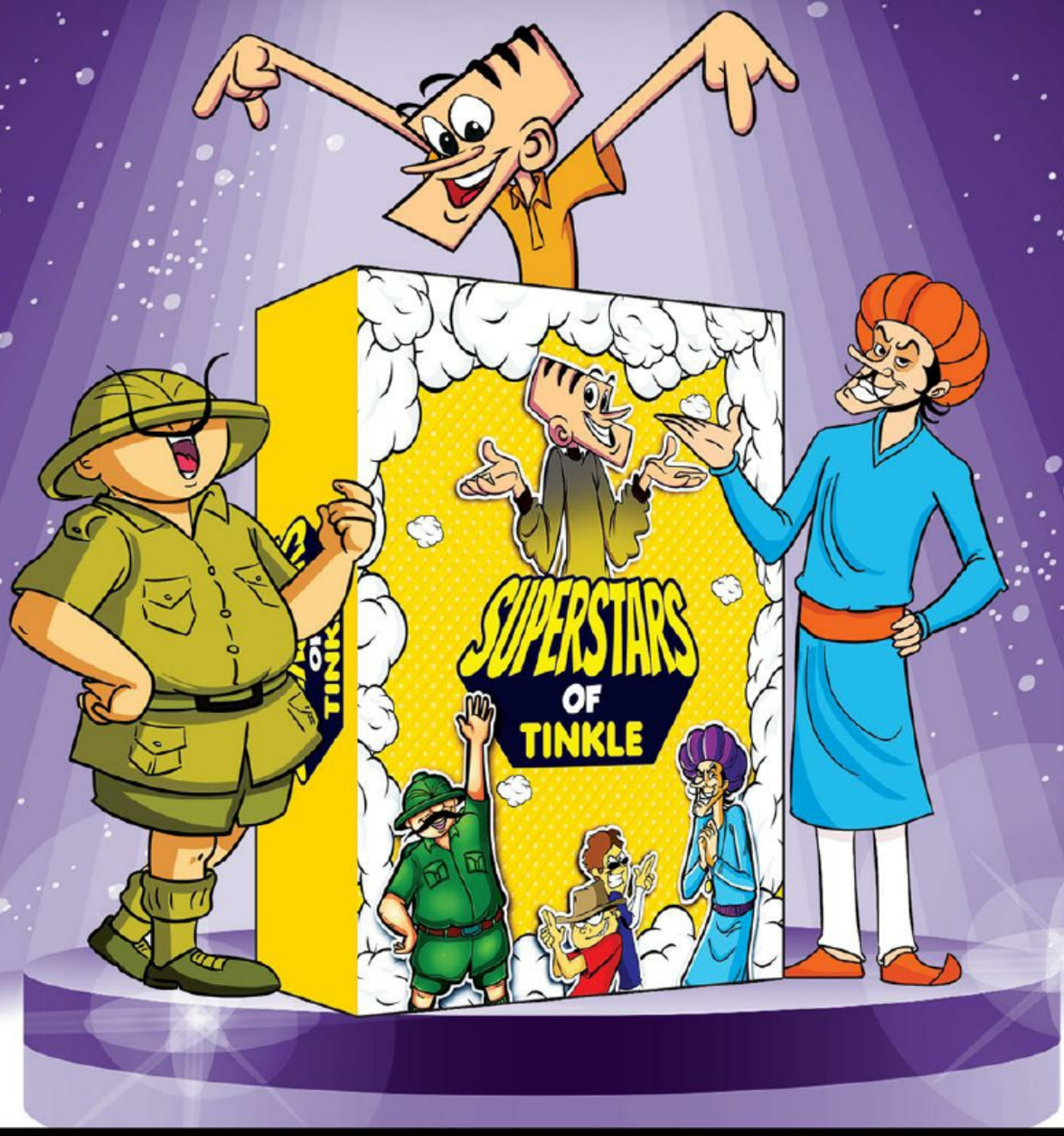

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BAGHA JATIN

When a tiger attacked Jatin Mukherji, his friends felt sorry for the tiger! The animal was killed and Jatin spent only a short time in hospital recuperating from his wounds. The young man went on to display grit and determination to combat the worst of British colonialism in Bengal. He inspired his countrymen, who were in awe of their British masters, to stand tall and proud.

Script
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Editor
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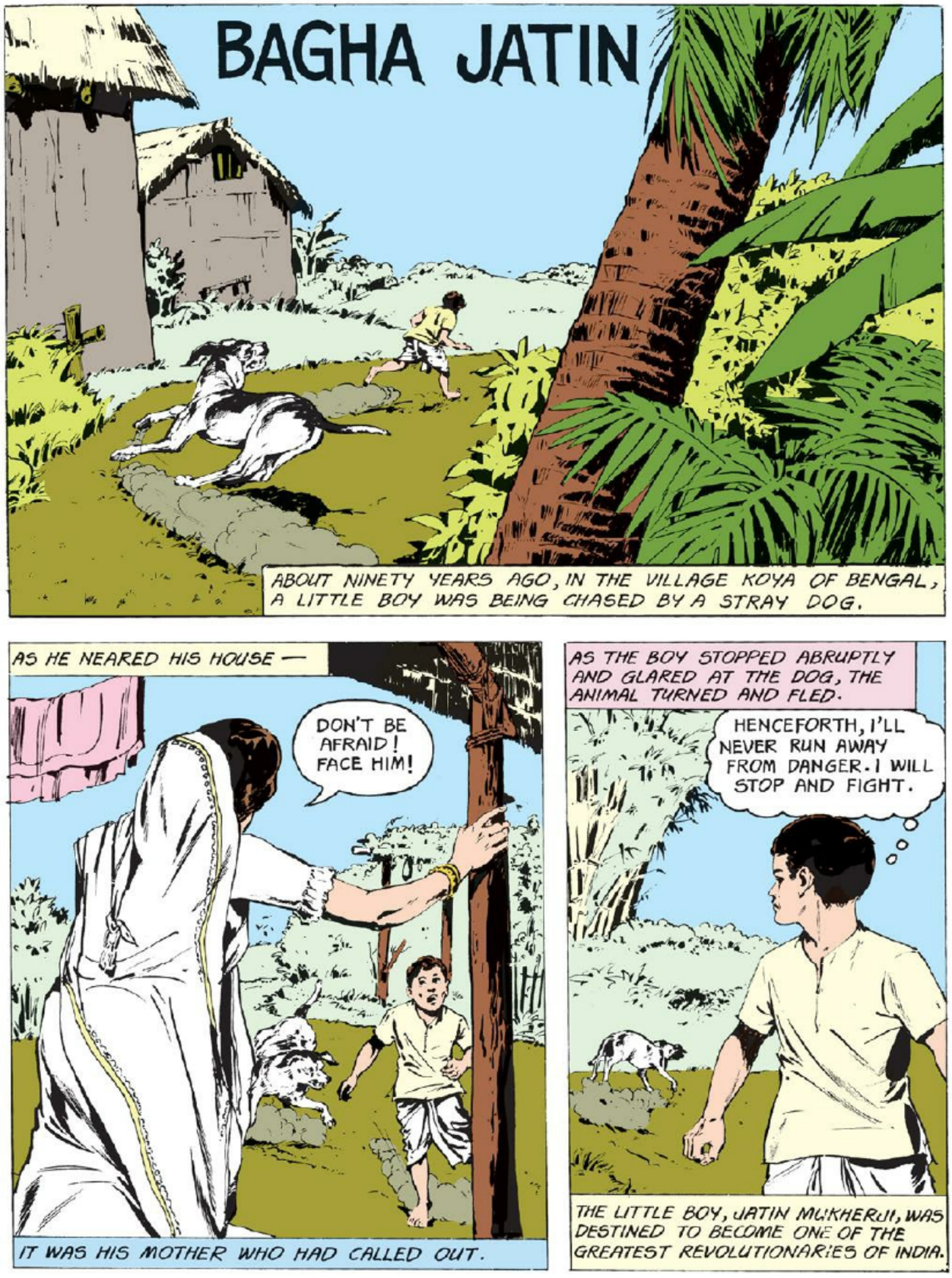
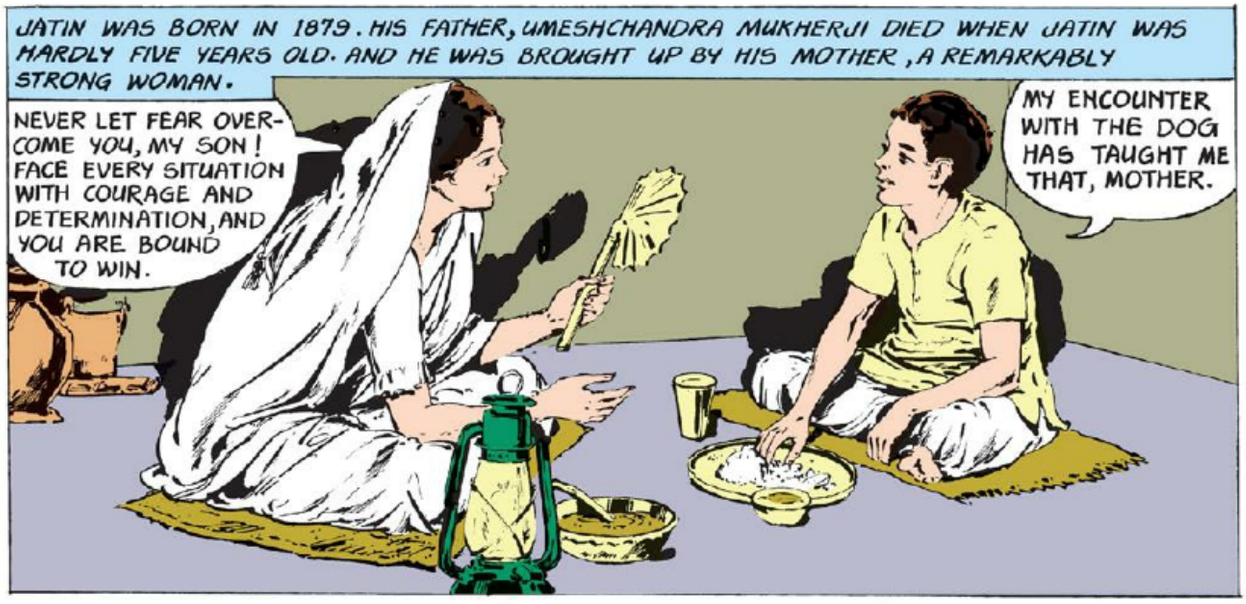
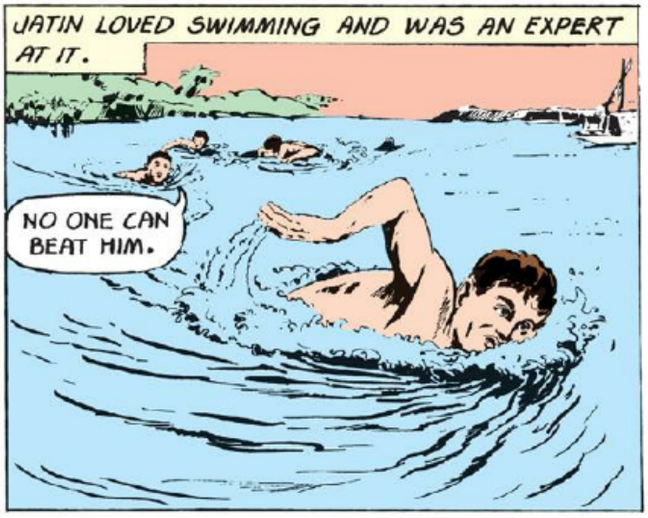
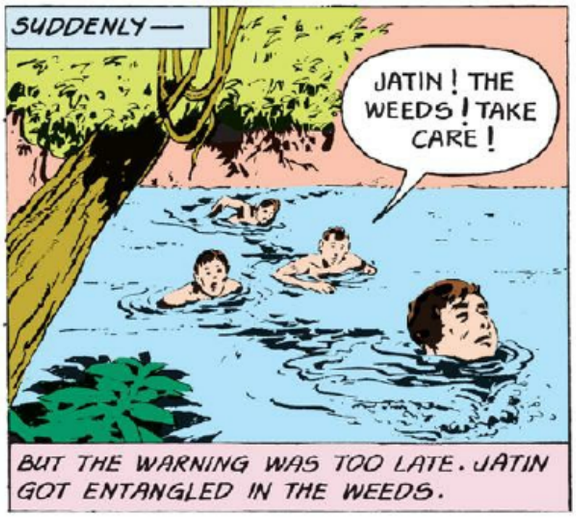
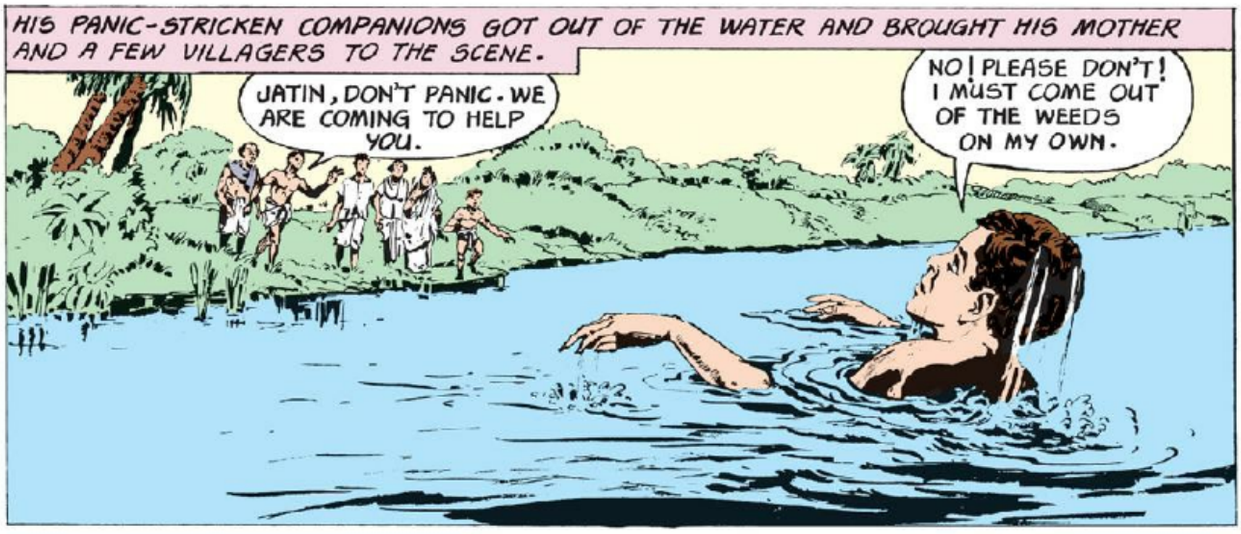
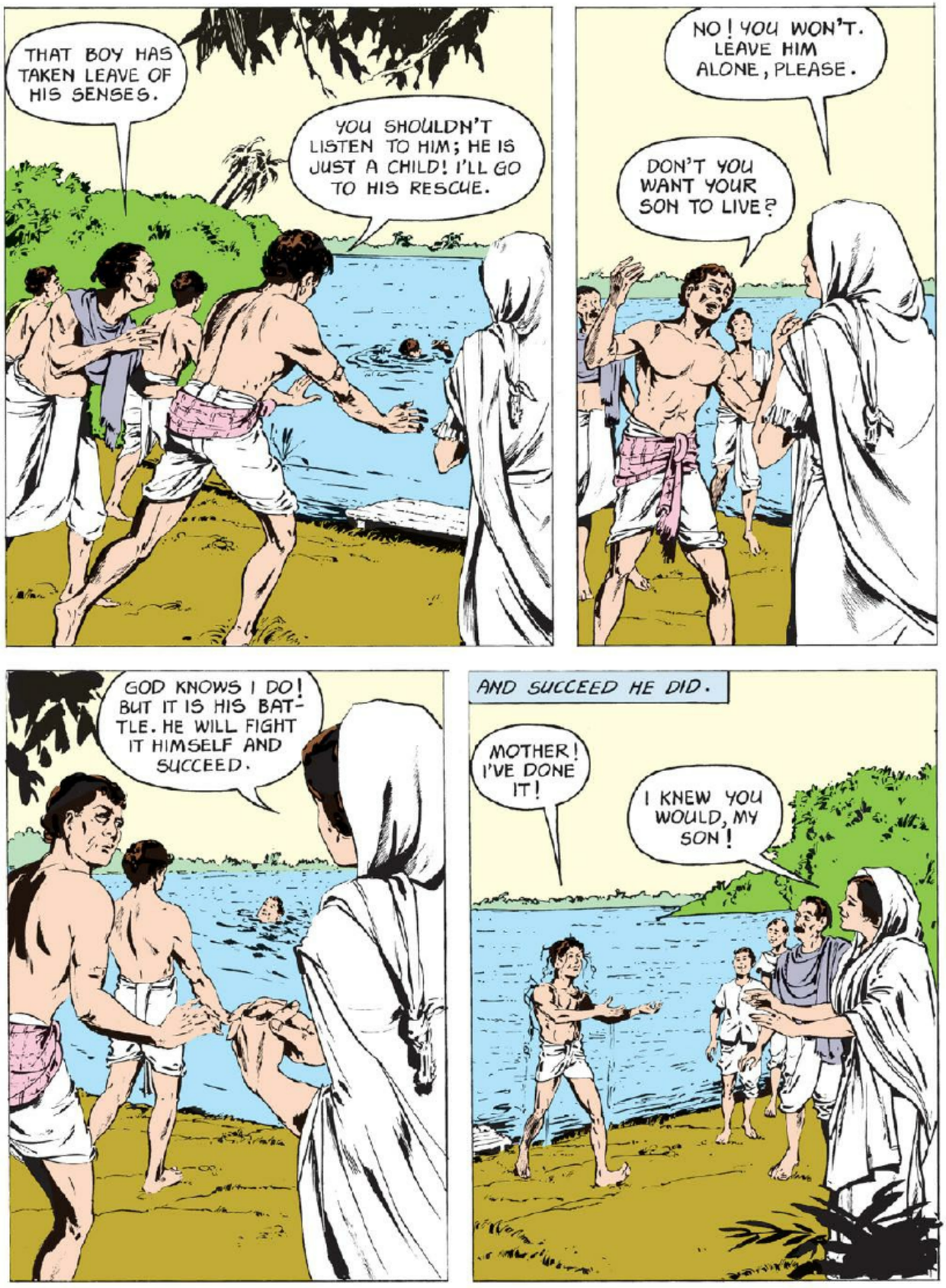

BAGHA JATIN
ABOUT NINETY YEARS AGO, IN THE VILLAGE KOYA OF BENGAL, A LITTLE BOY WAS BEING CHASED BY A STRAY DOG.
AS HE NEARED HIS HOUSE —
DON'T BE AFRAID! FACE HIM!
IT WAS HIS MOTHER WHO HAD CALLED OUT.
AS THE BOY STOPPED ABRUPTLY AND GLARED AT THE DOG, THE ANIMAL TURNED AND FLED.
HENCEFORTH, I'LL NEVER RUN AWAY FROM DANGER. I WILL STOP AND FIGHT.
THE LITTLE BOY, JATIN MUKHERJI, WAS DESTINED TO BECOME ONE OF THE GREATEST REVOLUTIONARIES OF INDIA.

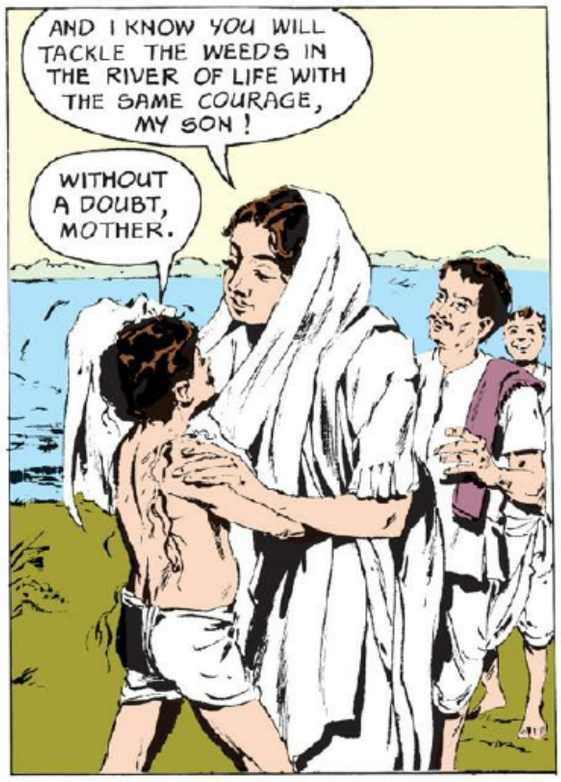

JATIN WAS BORN IN 1879. HIS FATHER, UMESHCHANDRA MUKHERJI DIED WHEN JATIN WAS HARDLY FIVE YEARS OLD. AND HE WAS BROUGHT UP BY HIS MOTHER, A REMARKABLY STRONG WOMAN.
NEVER LET FEAR OVER-COME YOU, MY SON! FACE EVERY SITUATION WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION, AND YOU ARE BOUND TO WIN.
MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE DOG HAS TAUGHT ME THAT, MOTHER.


JATIN LOVED SWIMMING AND WAS AN EXPERT AT IT.
NO ONE CAN BEAT HIM.

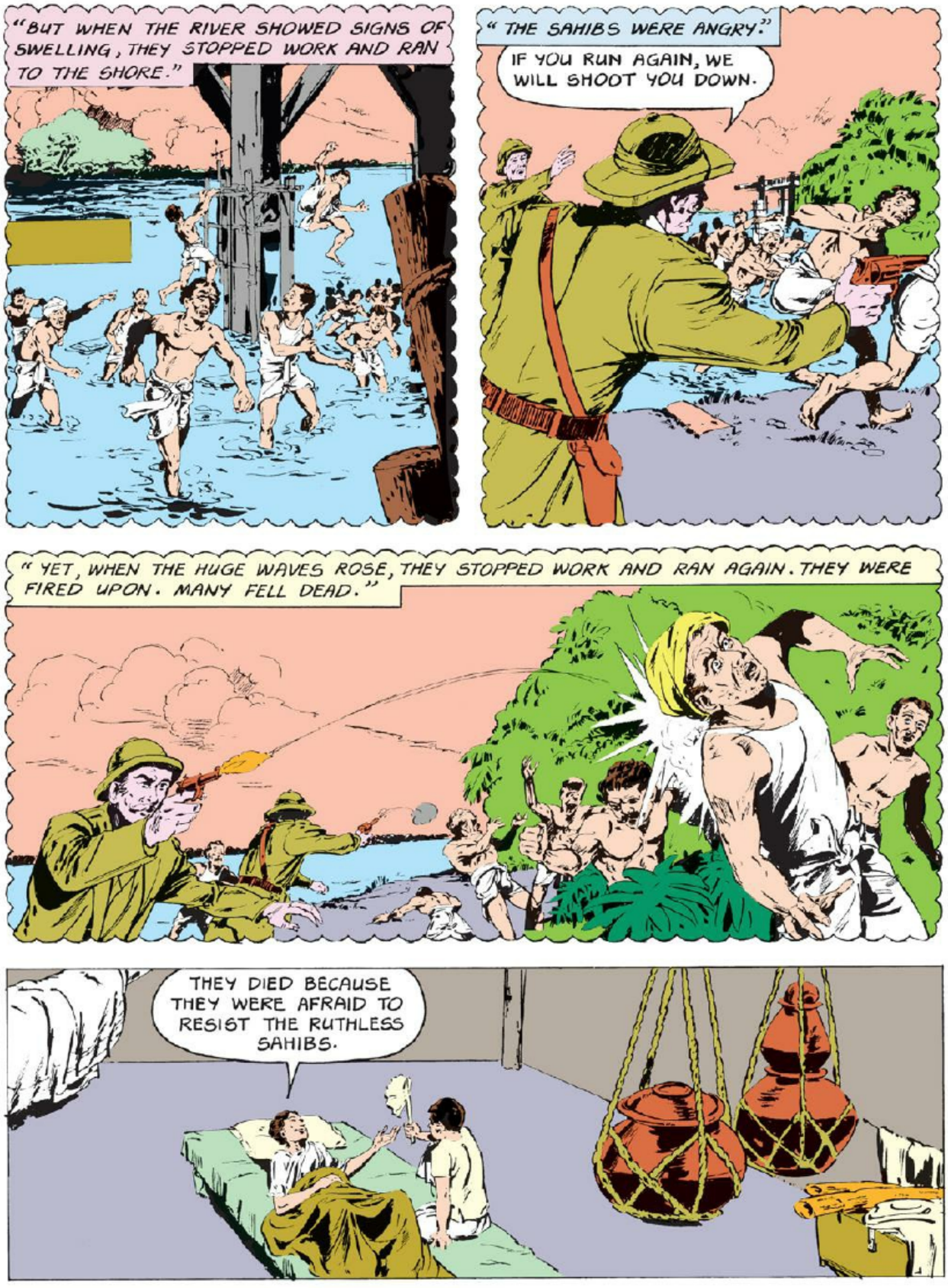

SUDDENLY—
JATIN! THE WEEDS! TAKE CARE!
BUT THE WARNING WAS TOO LATE. JATIN GOT ENTANGLED IN THE WEEDS.


HIS PANIC-STRICKEN COMPANIONS GOT OUT OF THE WATER AND BROUGHT HIS MOTHER AND A FEW VILLAGERS TO THE SCENE.
JATIN, DON'T PANIC. WE ARE COMING TO HELP YOU.
NO! PLEASE DON'T! I MUST COME OUT OF THE WEEDS ON MY OWN.

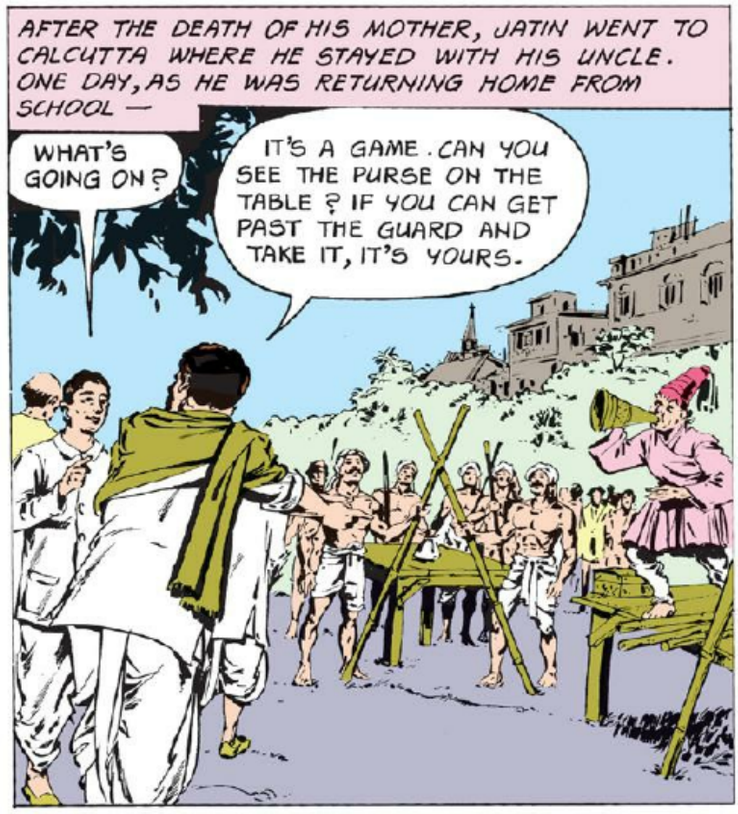

THAT BOY HAS TAKEN LEAVE OF HIS SENSES.
YOU SHOULDN'T LISTEN TO HIM; HE IS JUST A CHILD! I'LL GO TO HIS RESCUE.
NO! YOU WON'T. LEAVE HIM ALONE, PLEASE.
DON'T YOU WANT YOUR SON TO LIVE?
GOD KNOWS I DO! BUT IT IS HIS BATTLE. HE WILL FIGHT IT HIMSELF AND SUCCEED.
AND SUCCEED HE DID.
MOTHER! I'VE DONE IT!
I KNEW YOU WOULD, MY SON!



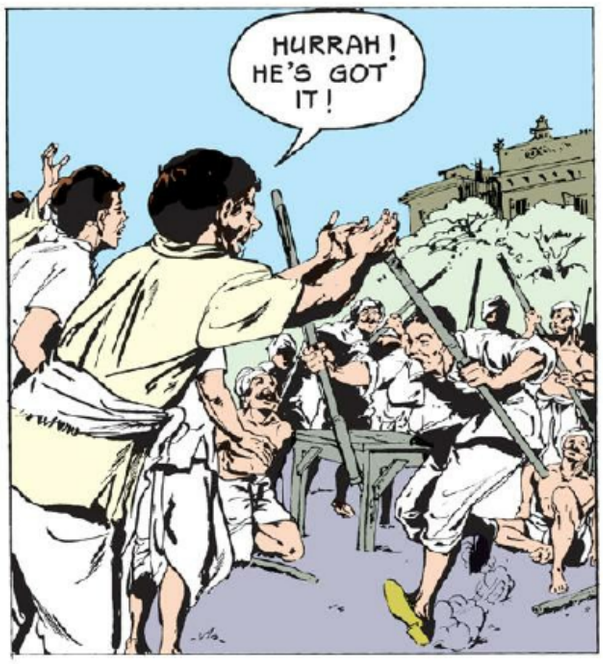
* THE BRITISH IN INDIA WERE CALLED 'SAHIBS.'

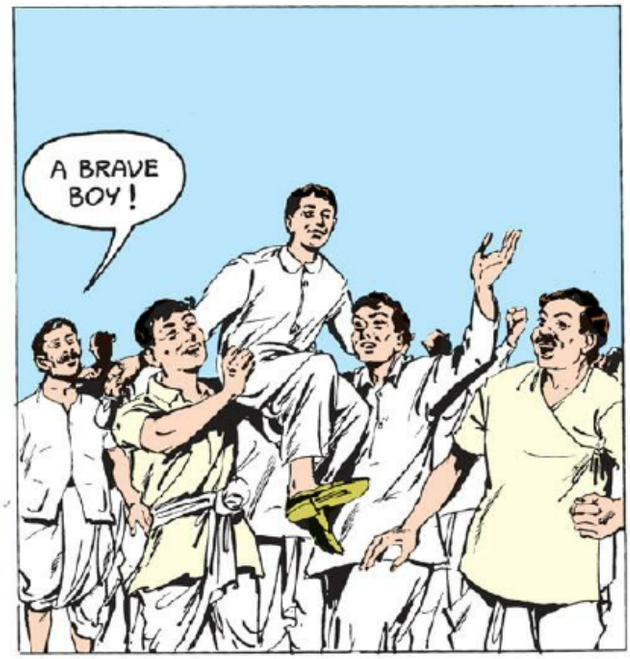

"BUT WHEN THE RIVER SHOWED SIGNS OF SWELLING, THEY STOPPED WORK AND RAN TO THE SHORE."
"THE SAHIBS WERE ANGRY."
IF YOU RUN AGAIN, WE WILL SHOOT YOU DOWN.
"YET, WHEN THE HUGE WAVES ROSE, THEY STOPPED WORK AND RAN AGAIN. THEY WERE FIRED UPON. MANY FELL DEAD."
THEY DIED BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID TO RESIST THE RUTHLESS SAHIBS.

OUR PEOPLE ARE STILL AFRAID. LOVE THEM, JATIN. TEACH THEM TO BE COURAGEOUS.
I WILL, MOTHER.


AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER, JATIN WENT TO CALCUTTA WHERE HE STAYED WITH HIS UNCLE. ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RETURNING HOME FROM SCHOOL —
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S A GAME. CAN YOU SEE THE PURSE ON THE TABLE? IF YOU CAN GET PAST THE GUARD AND TAKE IT, IT'S YOURS.

THE NEXT MOMENT —
BRAVO!
HE'LL DO IT!


HURRAH! HE'S GOT IT!

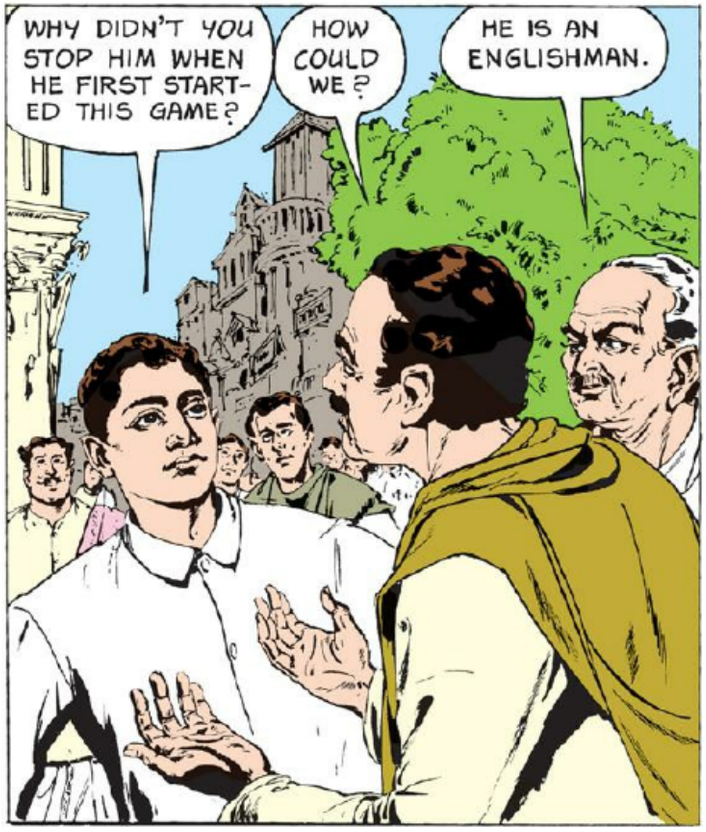

A BRAVE BOY!

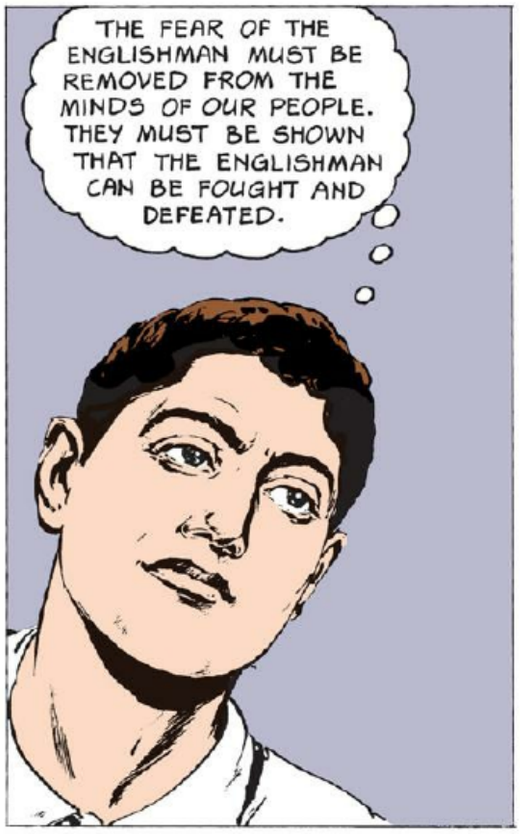
ONE DAY, JATIN HAPPENED TO WITNESS A STRANGE SCENE AT GORA BAZAR.
FORTY-SEVEN.
WHAT'S HE WHACKING HIM FOR?
IT IS HIS WAY OF TAKING A CENSUS OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO GORA BAZAR.

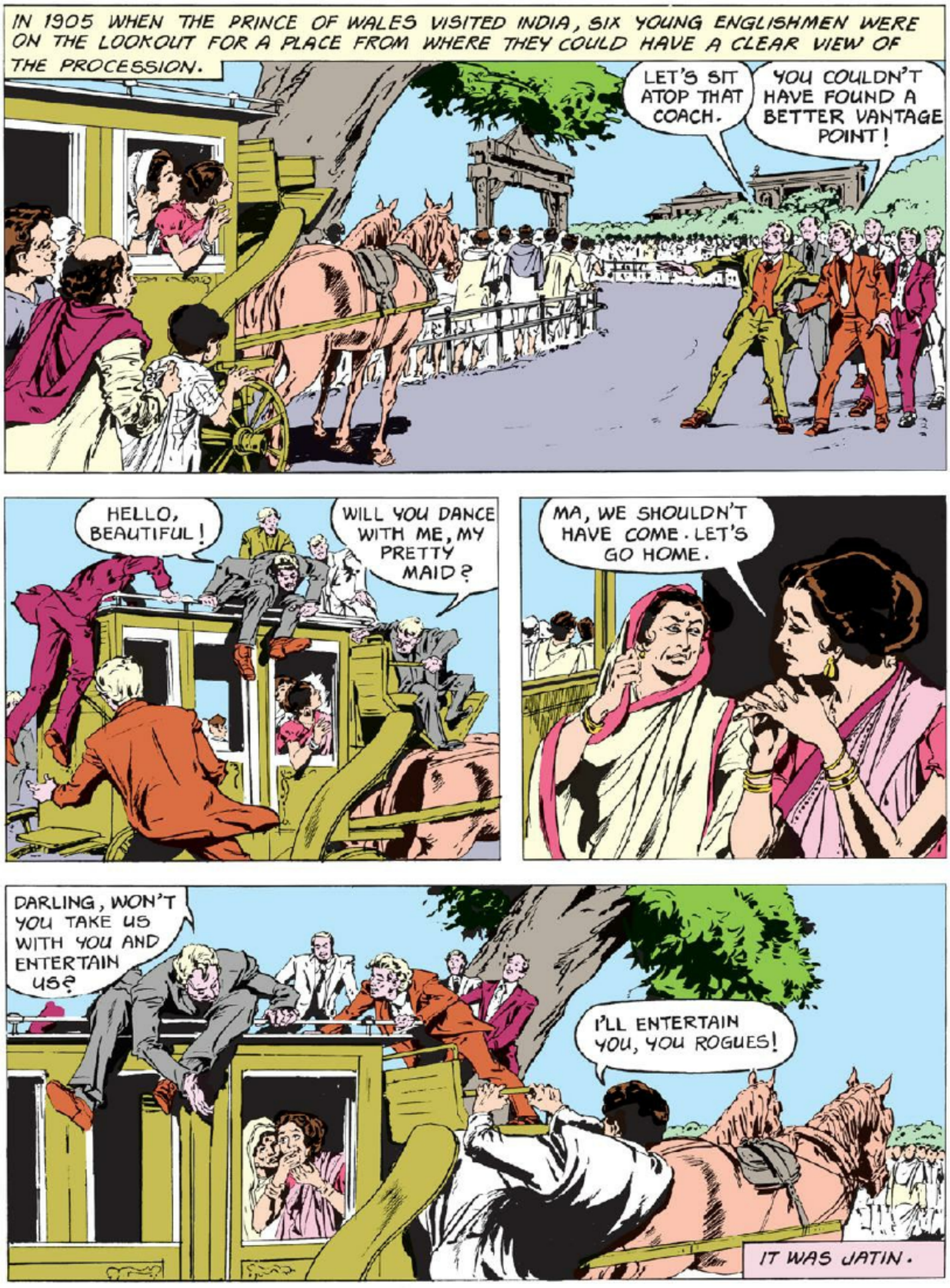
JATIN WALKED UP TO THE ENGLISHMAN.
FORTY-NINE.
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN TO COUNT ONE PERSON. I'LL HELP YOU.

JATIN SNATCHED THE STICK AND —
FIFTY! NOW THE CENSUS IS COMPLETE. GO HOME.
WITHOUT A WORD, THE ENGLISHMAN TOOK HIS ADVICE.

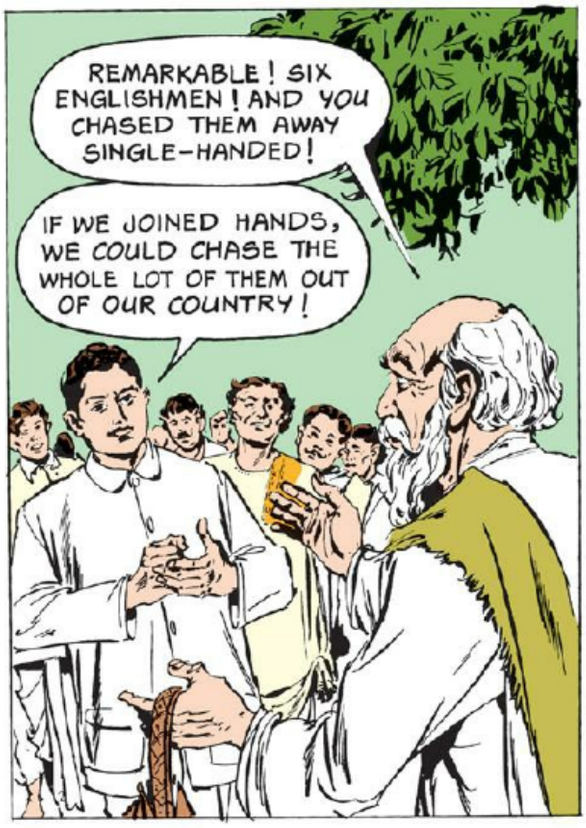
SOON A CROWD GATHERED AROUND JATIN.
GOOD WORK, MY SON. THE ENGLISHMAN WILL NOT REPEAT HIS LITTLE JOKE AGAIN.
WE CAN NOW VISIT THE BAZAR WITHOUT FEAR.


WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM WHEN HE FIRST STARTED THIS GAME?
HOW COULD WE?
HE IS AN ENGLISHMAN.


THE FEAR OF THE ENGLISHMAN MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE MINDS OF OUR PEOPLE. THEY MUST BE SHOWN THAT THE ENGLISHMAN CAN BE FOUGHT AND DEFEATED.

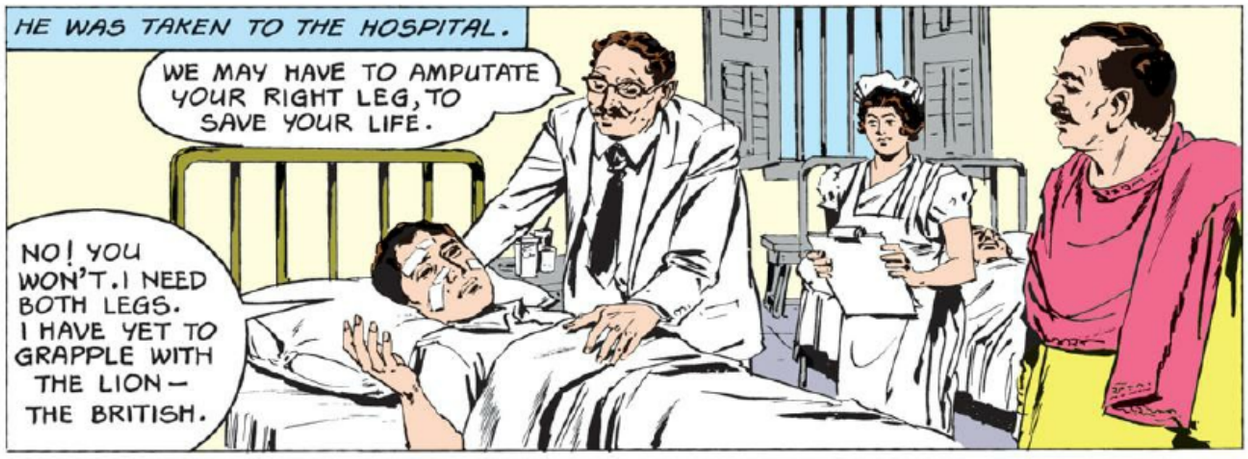

IN 1905 WHEN THE PRINCE OF WALES VISITED INDIA, SIX YOUNG ENGLISHMEN WERE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A PLACE FROM WHERE THEY COULD HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE PROCESSION.
LET'S SIT ATOP THAT COACH.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A BETTER VANTAGE POINT!
HELLO, BEAUTIFUL!
WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME, MY PRETTY MAID?
MA, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME. LET'S GO HOME.
DARLING, WON'T YOU TAKE US WITH YOU AND ENTERTAIN US?
I'LL ENTERTAIN YOU, YOU ROGUES!
IT WAS JATIN.

AND JATIN GAVE THE ILL-MANNERED YOUTHS THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THEIR LIVES!


REMARKABLE! SIX ENGLISHMEN! AND YOU CHASED THEM AWAY SINGLE-HANDED!
IF WE JOINED HANDS, WE COULD CHASE THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!

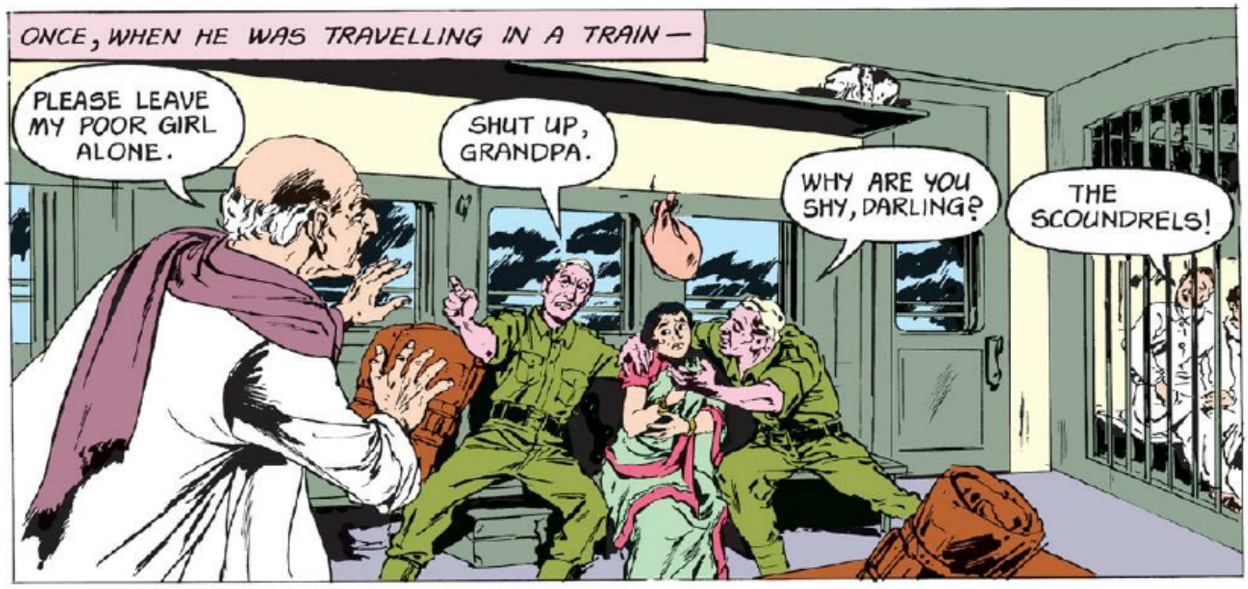
A FEW MONTHS LATER, JATIN AND HIS COUSIN WERE ON THE WAY TO THEIR VILLAGE. SUDDENLY —
JATIN, LOOK!
STEADY! DON'T PANIC!
I MUST GO AND GET HELP.
WHEN JATIN'S COUSIN RETURNED WITH HELP —
IS IT JATIN WHO NEEDS HELP OR THE TIGER?

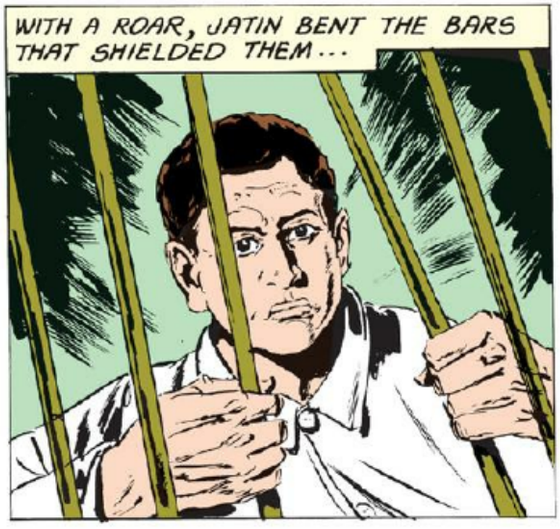
I'VE KILLED THE TIGER BUT I DO NEED HELP —A DOCTOR'S HELP!
WELL DONE, BAGHA* JATIN!


HE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL.
WE MAY HAVE TO AMPUTATE YOUR RIGHT LEG, TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
NO! YOU WON'T. I NEED BOTH LEGS. I HAVE YET TO GRAPPLE WITH THE LION— THE BRITISH.

JATIN CAME OUT OF THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT LOSING A LIMB.
YOU ARE A FIGHTER, INDEED. YOU HUMBLED THE TIGER FIRST AND THEN DEATH ITSELF!
BUT TO DO THE HAT TRICK, I MUST SUCCEED IN HUMBLING THE BRITISH, DOCTOR.

* TIGER


ONCE, WHEN HE WAS TRAVELLING IN A TRAIN—
PLEASE LEAVE MY POOR GIRL ALONE.
SHUT UP, GRANDPA.
WHY ARE YOU SHY, DARLING?
THE SCOUNDRELS!

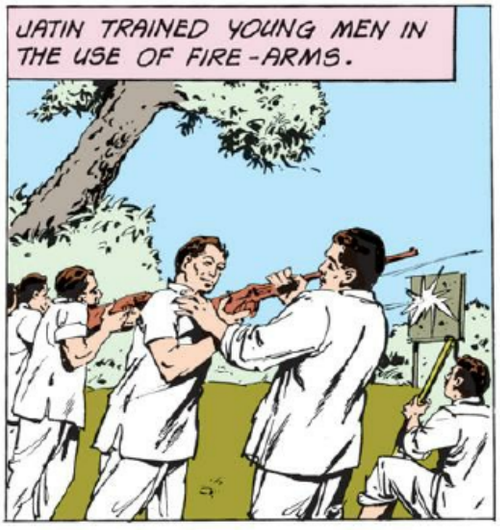

WITH A ROAR, JATIN BENT THE BARS THAT SHIELDED THEM...

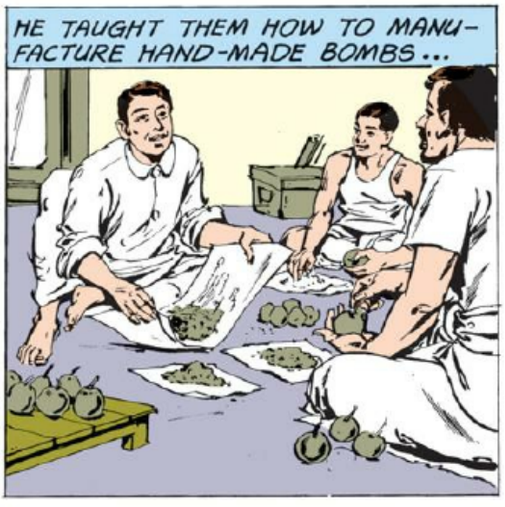
...AND CHARGED.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, MY SON. YOU HAVE SAVED OUR HONOUR.
BUT THE HONOUR OF MOTHER INDIA WILL BE SAFE ONLY WHEN WE'VE THROWN OFF THE YOKE OF BRITISH RULE.

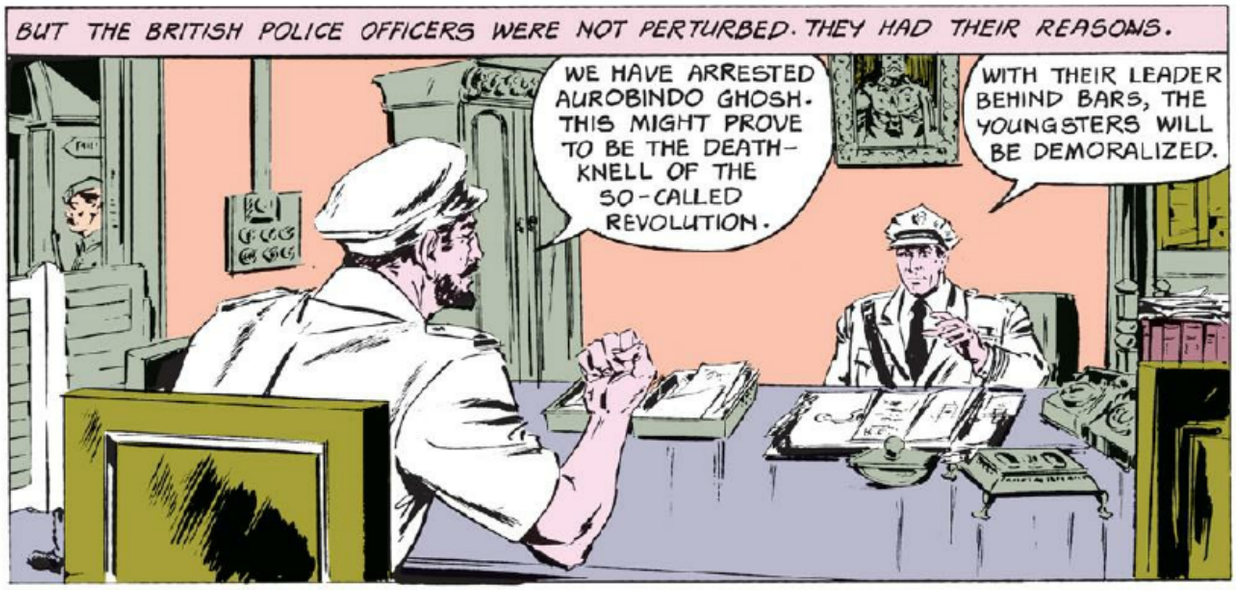
WE SHARE YOUR SENTIMENTS. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU. BUT TAKE CARE, SON.
SOON AFTER THAT, JATIN WAS ARRESTED AND BROUGHT BEFORE A BRITISH JUDGE FOR HUMBLING FOUR INSOLENT BRITISH SOLDIERS.
FOUR ROBUST BRITISH OFFICERS PROVED HELPLESS AGAINST ONE NATIVE!
YE..S, SIR–
THIS TRIAL, IF IT GOES ON, WILL RECEIVE PUBLICITY. OUR MEN IN INDIA WILL BE DEMORALIZED. OTHER NATIVES MAY TAKE A CUE FROM THIS INCIDENT.
YOUR LORDSHIP, PERMIT US TO WITHDRAW THE CASE.
PERMISSION GRANTED. CASE DISMISSED.

MEANWHILE, JATIN HAD TAKEN UP A JOB AS A STENOGRAPHER TO THE GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY.
HOW COULD YOU, A STAUNCH NATIONALIST, WORK FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT?
BECAUSE IT PROVIDES ME WITH A PERFECT COVER. NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT ME.

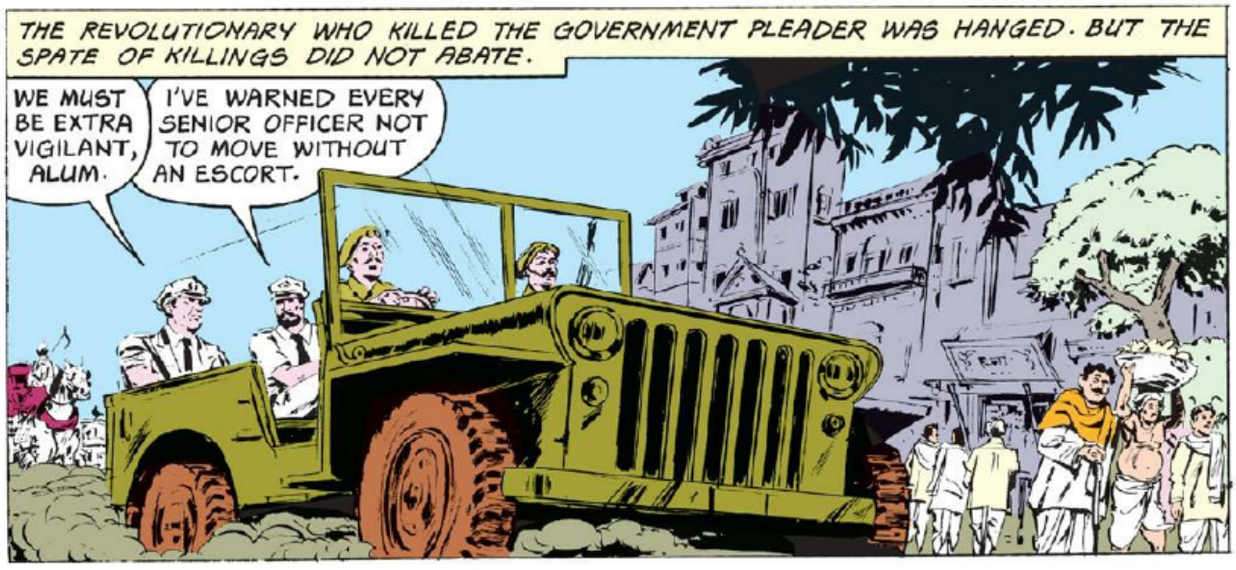

JATIN TRAINED YOUNG MEN IN THE USE OF FIRE-ARMS.

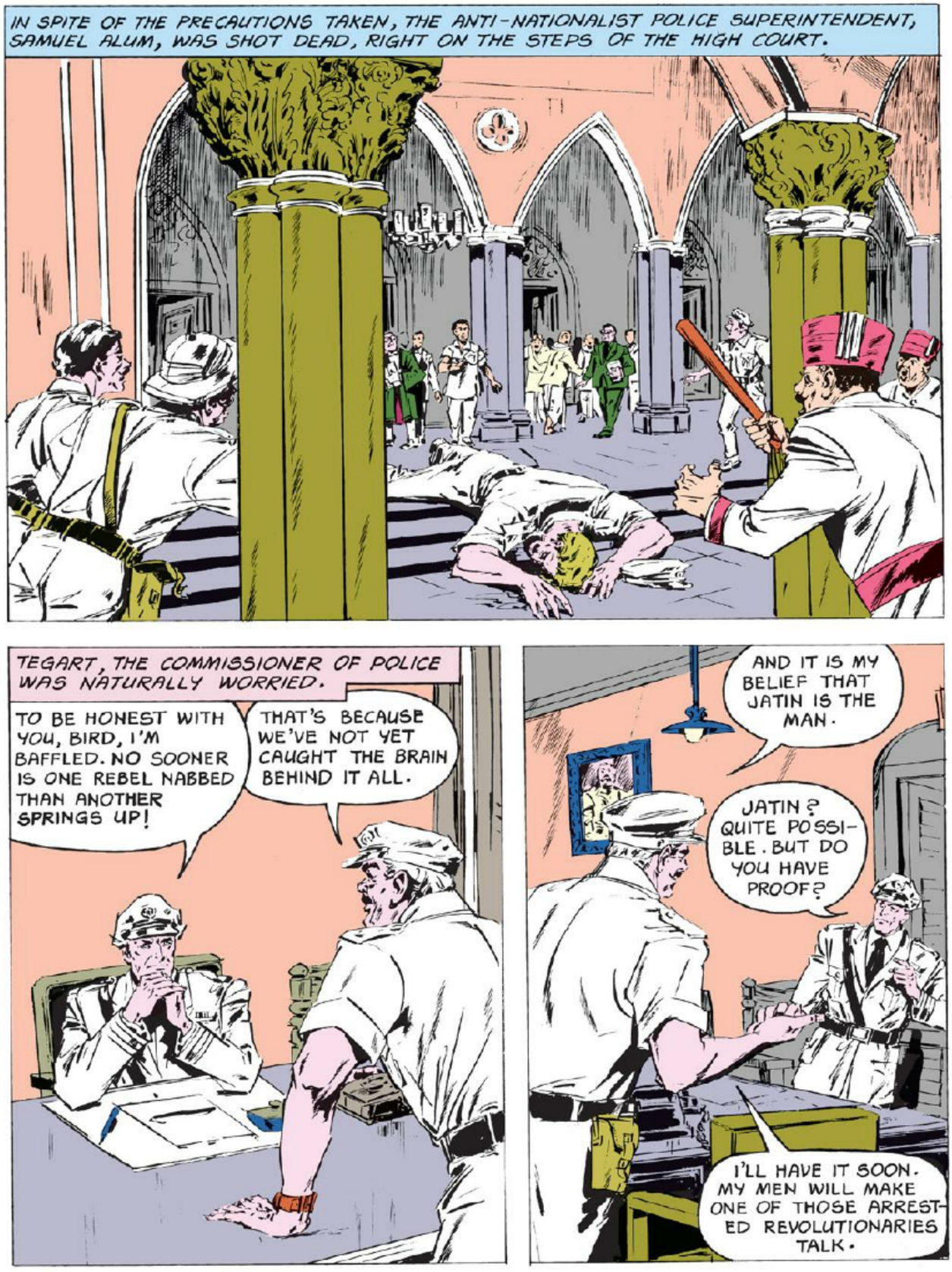

HE TAUGHT THEM HOW TO MANUFACTURE HAND-MADE BOMBS...

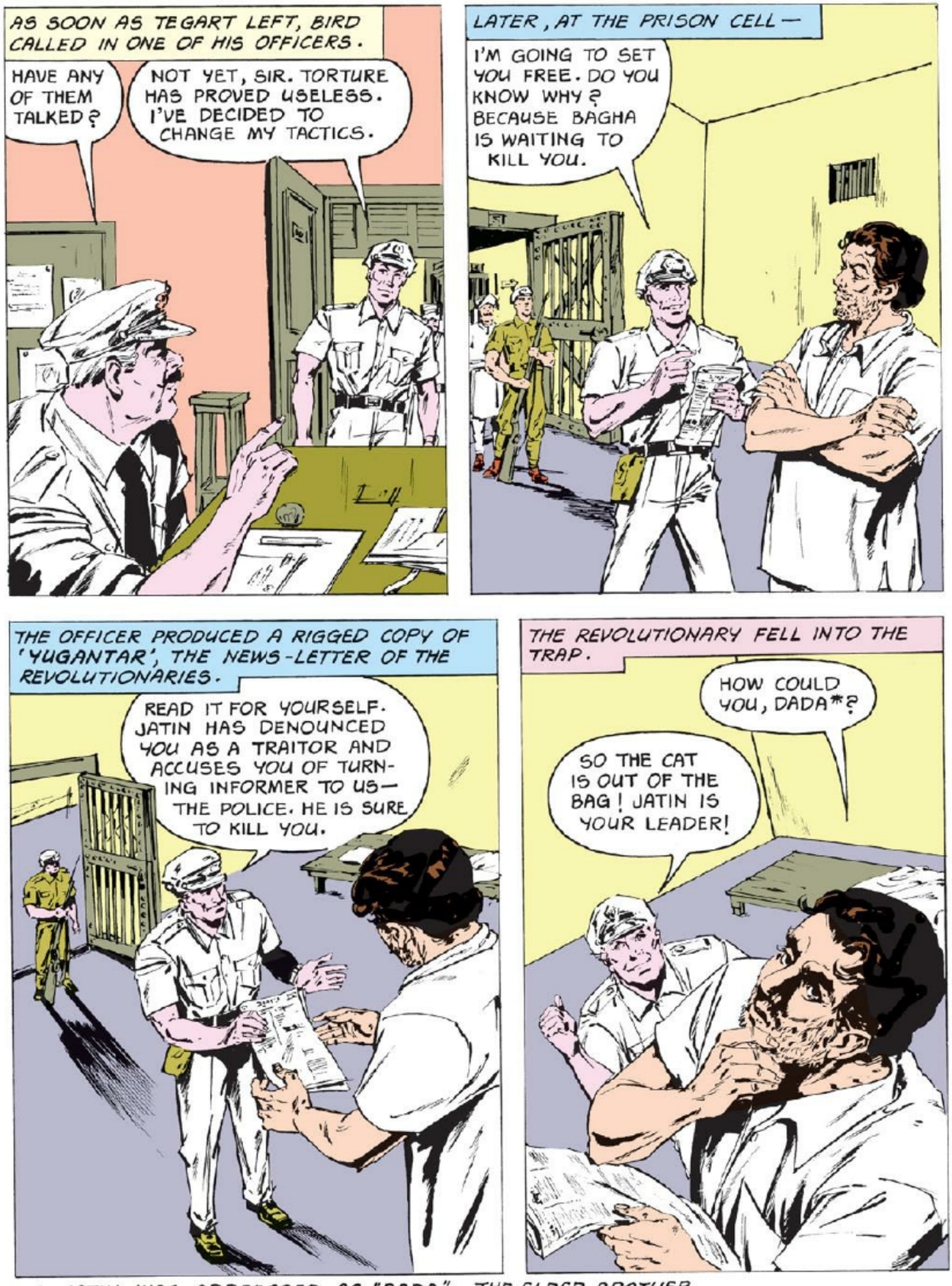
...AND THROW THEM AT BRITISH OFFICERS.


BUT THE BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS WERE NOT PERTURBED. THEY HAD THEIR REASONS.
WE HAVE ARRESTED AUROBINDO GHOSH. THIS MIGHT PROVE TO BE THE DEATH-KNELL OF THE SO-CALLED REVOLUTION.
WITH THEIR LEADER BEHIND BARS, THE YOUNGSTERS WILL BE DEMORALIZED.

THE NEXT DAY AT THE COURT AS THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER, ASHU BISWAS, ROSE TO ARGUE THE CASE AGAINST AUROBINDO, A BULLET HIT HIM.
A-A-AH!
MAY THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL SUCH TRAITORS.


THE REVOLUTIONARY WHO KILLED THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER WAS HANGED. BUT THE SPATE OF KILLINGS DID NOT ABATE.
WE MUST BE EXTRA VIGILANT, ALUM.
I'VE WARNED EVERY SENIOR OFFICER NOT TO MOVE WITHOUT AN ESCORT.

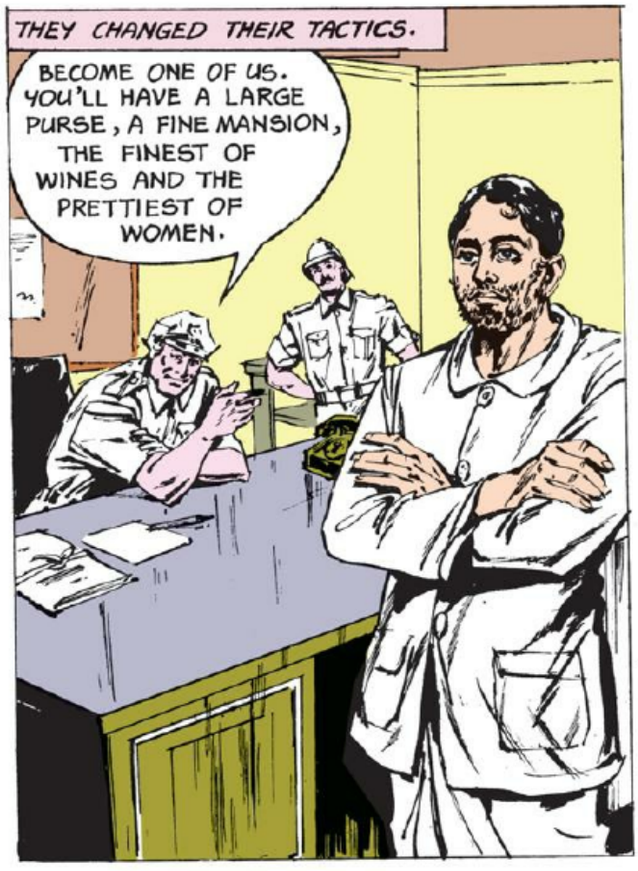

IN SPITE OF THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN, THE ANTI-NATIONALIST POLICE SUPERINTENDENT, SAMUEL ALUM, WAS SHOT DEAD, RIGHT ON THE STEPS OF THE HIGH COURT.
TEGART, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WAS NATURALLY WORRIED.
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, BIRD, I'M BAFFLED. NO SOONER IS ONE REBEL NABBED THAN ANOTHER SPRINGS UP!
THAT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NOT YET CAUGHT THE BRAIN BEHIND IT ALL.
AND IT IS MY BELIEF THAT JATIN IS THE MAN.
JATIN? QUITE POSSIBLE. BUT DO YOU HAVE PROOF?
I'LL HAVE IT SOON. MY MEN WILL MAKE ONE OF THOSE ARRESTED REVOLUTIONARIES TALK.



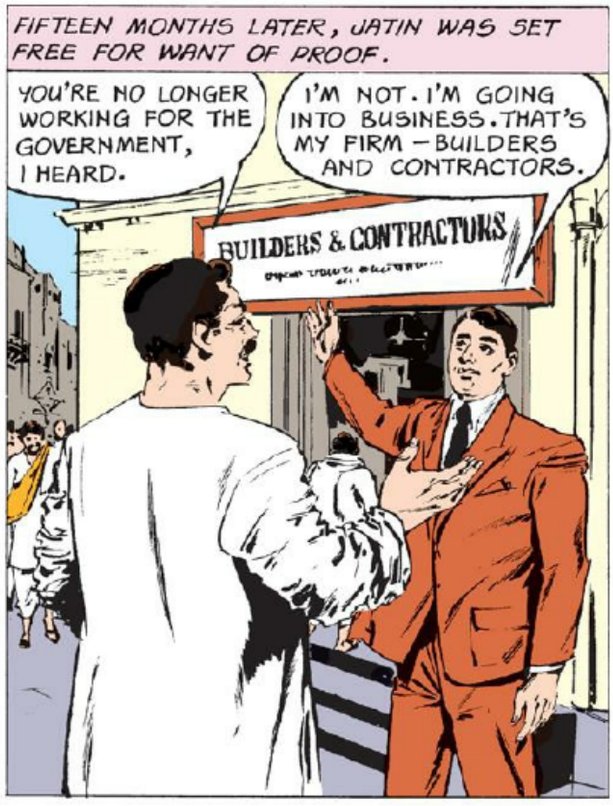
* JATIN WAS ADDRESSED AS "DADA"— THE ELDER BROTHER.

AS THE JUBILANT OFFICER WALKED AWAY —
OH, I HAVE BEEN TRICKED! DADA, I HAVE LET YOU DOWN. FORGIVE ME, DADA.

JATIN WAS ARRESTED AND SUBJECTED TO TORTURE.
AMAZING. HE WON'T CONFESS, HE WON'T CRY OUT, AND HE WON'T EVEN COMPLAIN!
I AM BEGINNING TO FEEL ASHAMED OF WHAT I'M DOING.

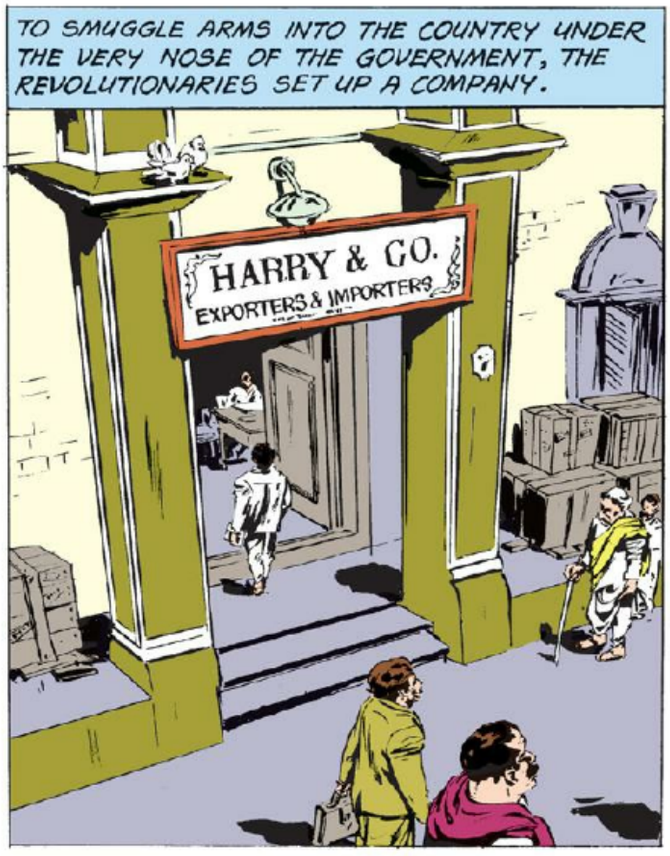

THEY CHANGED THEIR TACTICS.
BECOME ONE OF US. YOU'LL HAVE A LARGE PURSE, A FINE MANSION, THE FINEST OF WINES AND THE PRETTIEST OF WOMEN.

THE MAN WHO HAD REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT HIS ORDEALS, NOW ALL BUT ROARED.
SHUT UP!


FIFTEEN MONTHS LATER, JATIN WAS SET FREE FOR WANT OF PROOF.
YOU'RE NO LONGER WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, I HEARD.
I'M NOT. I'M GOING INTO BUSINESS. THAT'S MY FIRM – BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.
BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON, WHEN AUROBINDO LEFT CALCUTTA FOR PONDICHERRY, JATIN ASSUMED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES.
HOW IS THE BUILDING WORK GOING ON IN THE PUNJAB?
OUR PEOPLE ARE ASKING FOR MORE MATERIALS.

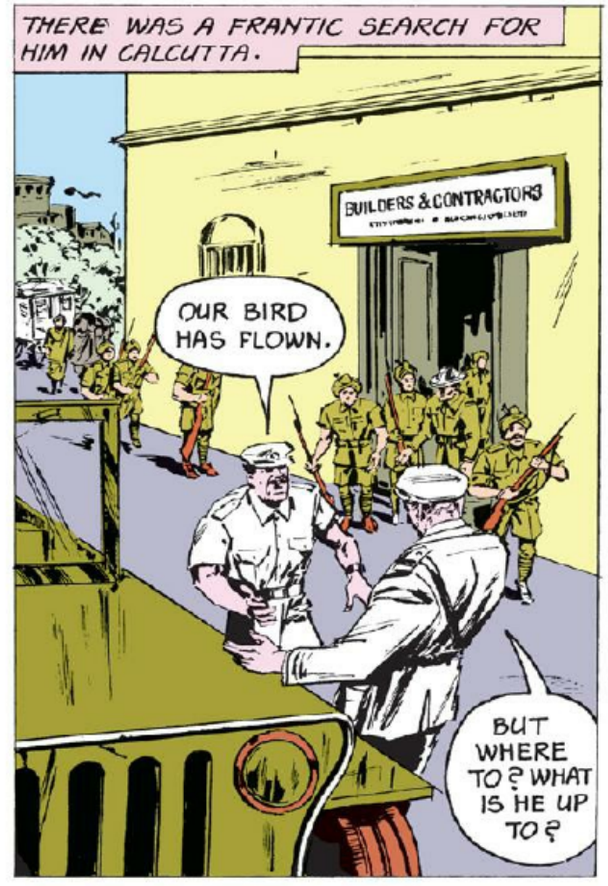
WE ARE DOING OUR BEST. WE ARE IMPORTING MATERIALS FROM RUSSIA, GERMANY AND JAPAN.


TO SMUGGLE ARMS INTO THE COUNTRY UNDER THE VERY NOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARIES SET UP A COMPANY.
HARRY & CO.
EXPORTERS & IMPORTERS

THE REVOLUTIONARIES WERE AT LAST READY.
FEBRUARY 21, 1915. THAT'S THE DAY WE STRIKE. THE FIRST SHOT WILL BE FIRED IN THE PUNJAB, RASHBIHARI.

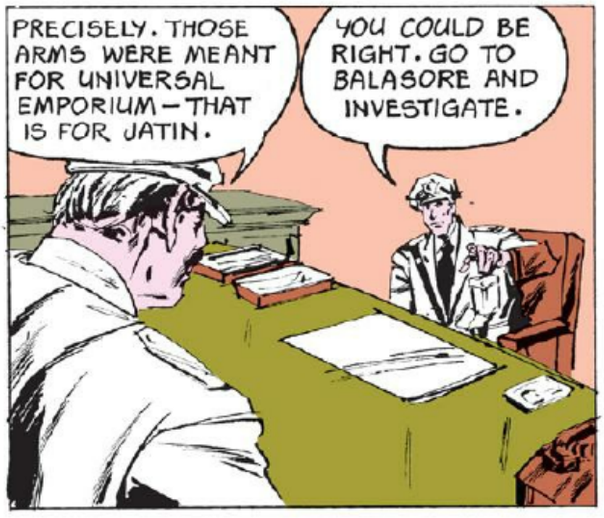
BUT THE FIRST SHOT WAS NEVER HEARD IN THE PUNJAB. ONE OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES TURNED TRAITOR AND RASHBIHARI BOSE HAD TO FLEE TO JAPAN. THE CAPTURED REVOLUTIONARIES CHEERFULLY WENT TO THE GALLOWS.

THE POLICE OFFICIALS AT CALCUTTA BECAME ALERT.
THEY FAILED IN THE PUNJAB. I WON'T ALLOW THEM TO SUCCEED IN BENGAL.
THEN WE MUST PUT JATIN BEHIND BARS.


THERE WAS A FRANTIC SEARCH FOR HIM IN CALCUTTA.
BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS
OUR BIRD HAS FLOWN.
BUT WHERE TO? WHAT IS HE UP TO?

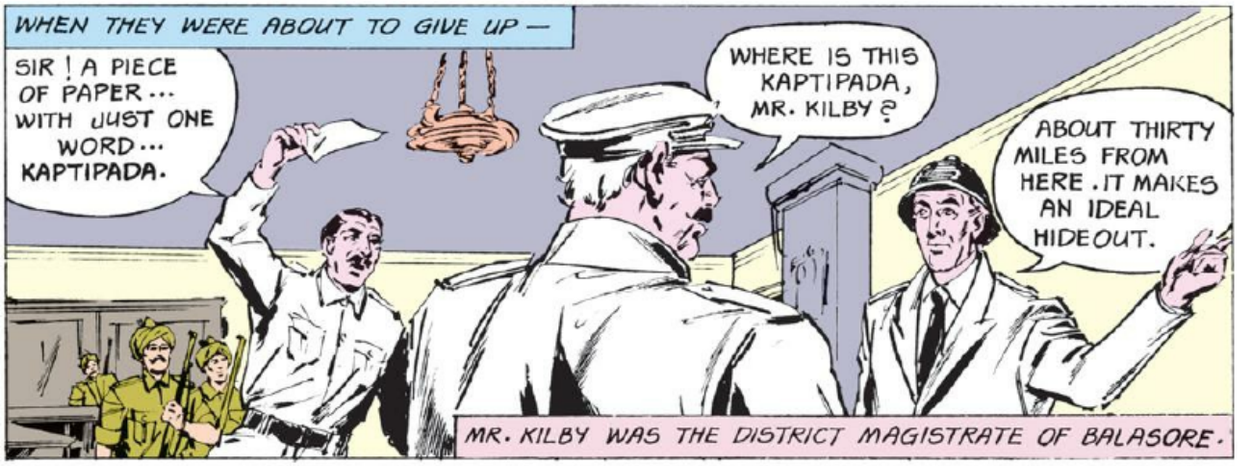
THEY SOON FOUND OUT.
HERE IS AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM HARRY AND CO. TO UNIVERSAL EMPORIUM AT BALASORE TOWN.*
WHAT DOES IT SAY?

IT IS AN ADVICE TO COLLECT SHIPMENT AT THE USUAL PLACE.
SHIPMENT? COULD IT BE ARMS?

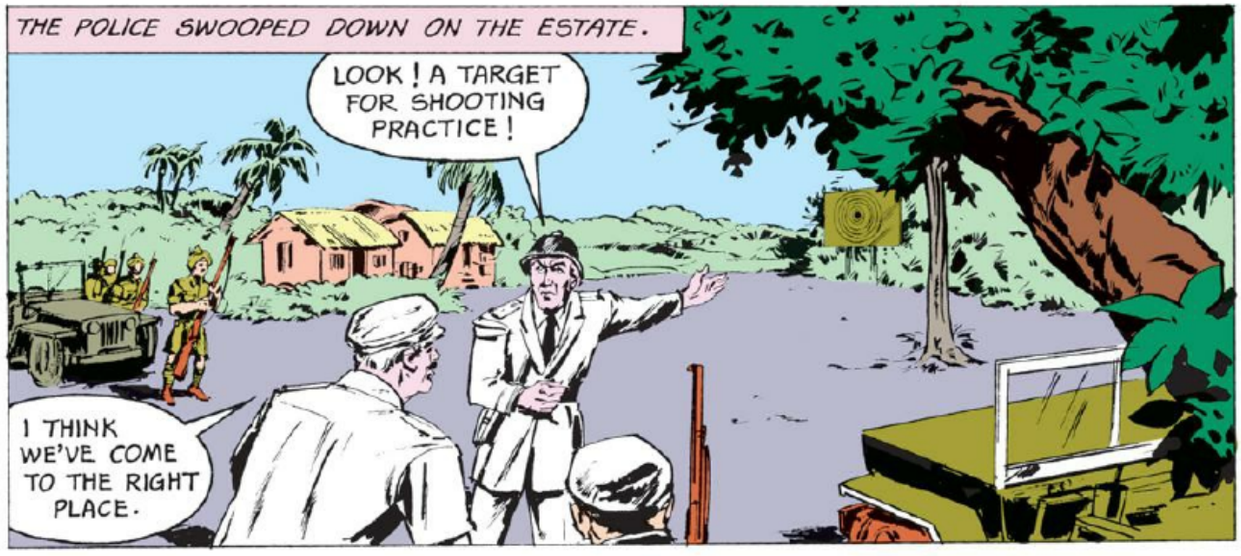

PRECISELY. THOSE ARMS WERE MEANT FOR UNIVERSAL EMPORIUM — THAT IS FOR JATIN.
YOU COULD BE RIGHT. GO TO BALASORE AND INVESTIGATE.

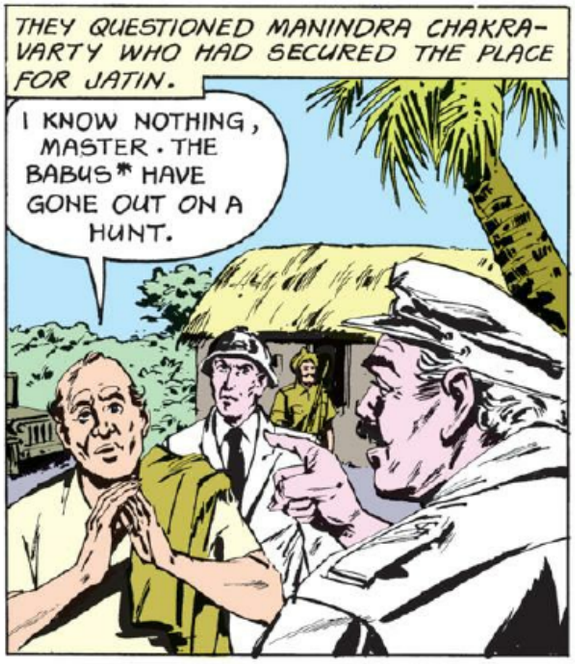
AT UNIVERSAL EMPORIUM —
WE HAVE SEARCHED THE PLACE THOROUGHLY. WE HAVEN'T UNEARTHED A SINGLE CLUE.

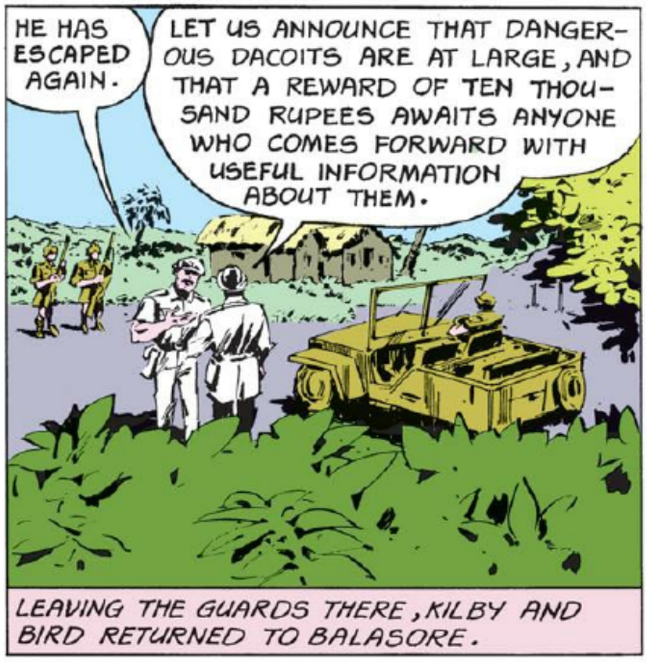
* IN ORISSA

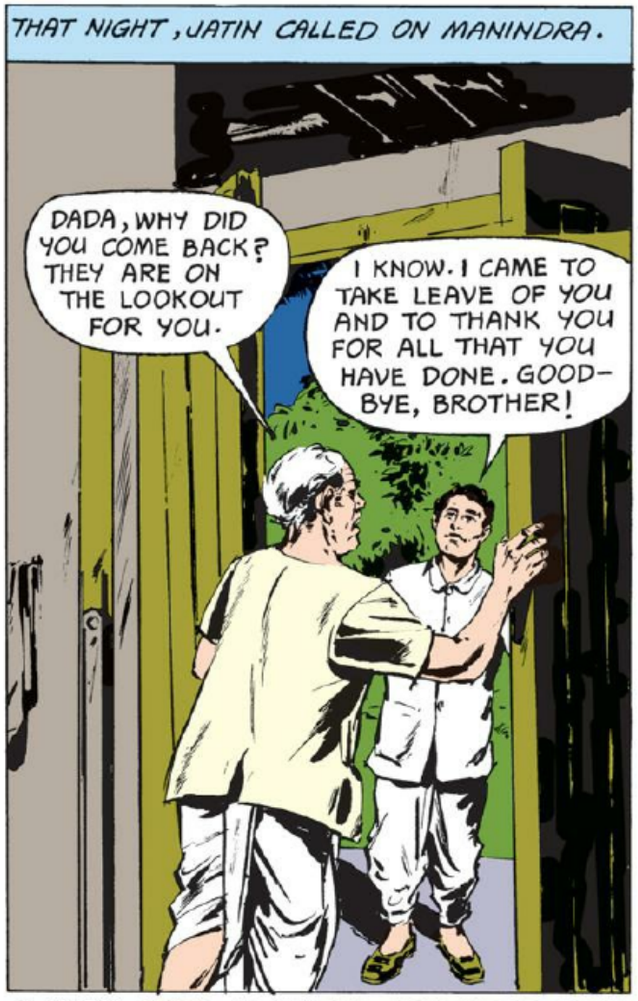

WHEN THEY WERE ABOUT TO GIVE UP —
SIR ! A PIECE OF PAPER ... WITH JUST ONE WORD ... KAPTIPADA.
WHERE IS THIS KAPTIPADA, MR. KILBY ?
ABOUT THIRTY MILES FROM HERE . IT MAKES AN IDEAL HIDEOUT.
MR. KILBY WAS THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF BALASORE.

THE POLICE WERE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. JATIN, WITH TWO YOUNG LIEUTENANTS, WAS HIDING AT AN ESTATE NEAR KAPTIPADA; WHILE TWO OTHERS KEPT WATCH, SIX MILES AWAY FROM THE HIDEOUT. IT WAS JATIN WHO SPOTTED THE POLICE.
WE WILL SOON HAVE COMPANY.


THE POLICE SWOOPED DOWN ON THE ESTATE.
LOOK ! A TARGET FOR SHOOTING PRACTICE !
I THINK WE'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.



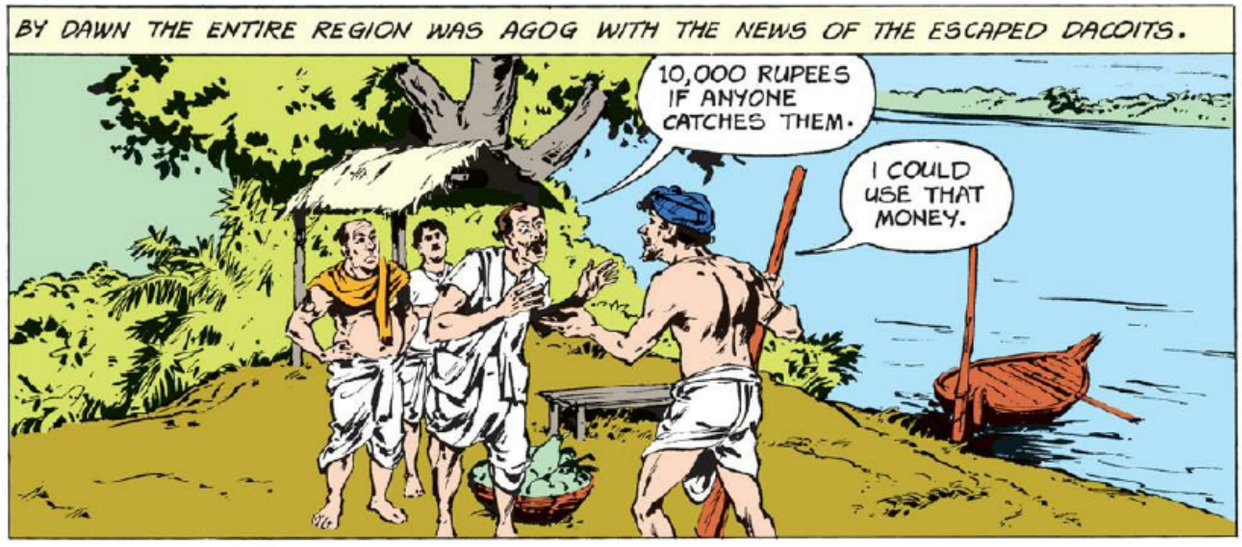




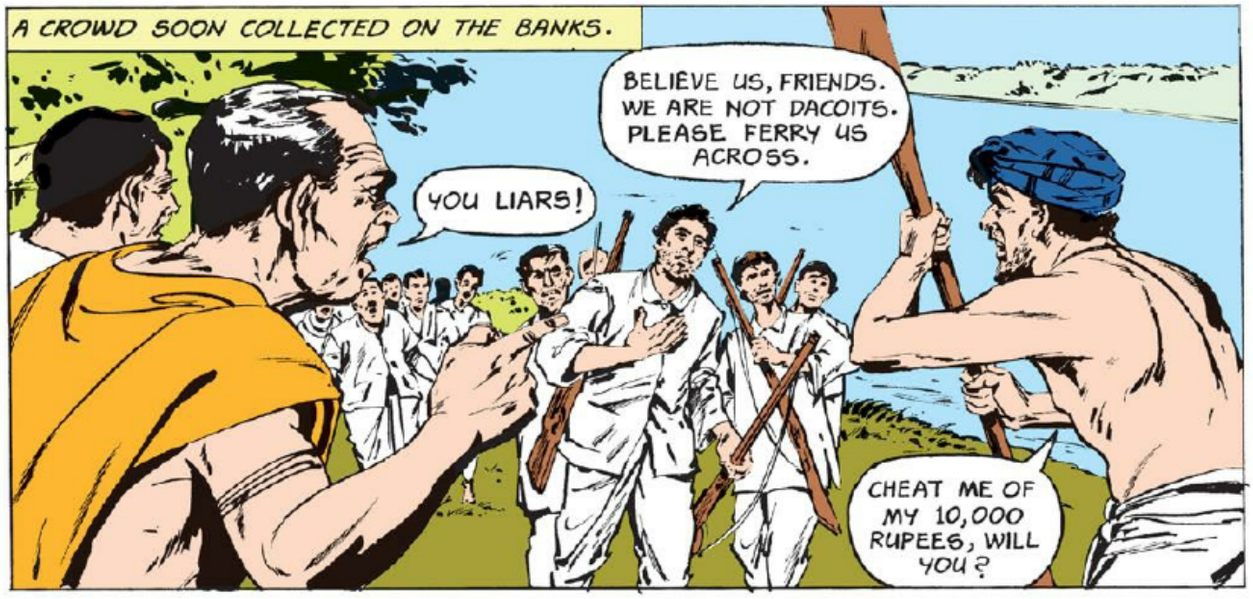
* TERM USED IN BENGAL FOR ADDRESSING MEN OF GOOD SOCIAL STANDING

JATIN'S COMPANIONS, CHITTAPRIYA AND MANORANJAN WANTED THEIR LEADER TO LEAVE THEM BEHIND AND ESCAPE.
DADA, DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
YOU CAN MOVE FASTER WITHOUT US.

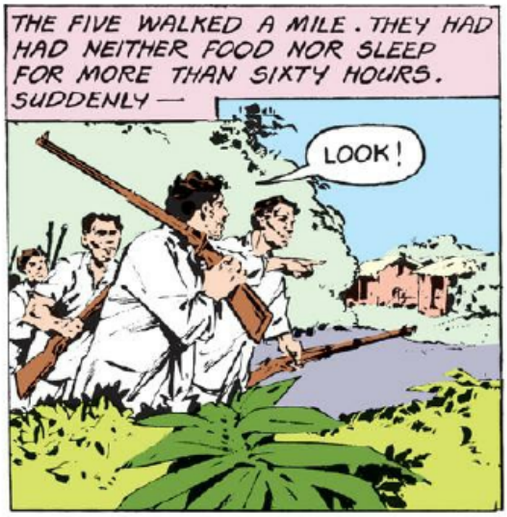
IGNORING THEIR SUGGESTIONS, JATIN TOOK THEM ALONG WITH HIM. THEY JOINED THE TWO OTHER LIEUTENANTS—NIREN AND JYOTISH—WHO WERE CAMPING SIX MILES AWAY. AND THE FIVE OF THEM MARCHED OUT INTO THE NIGHT.

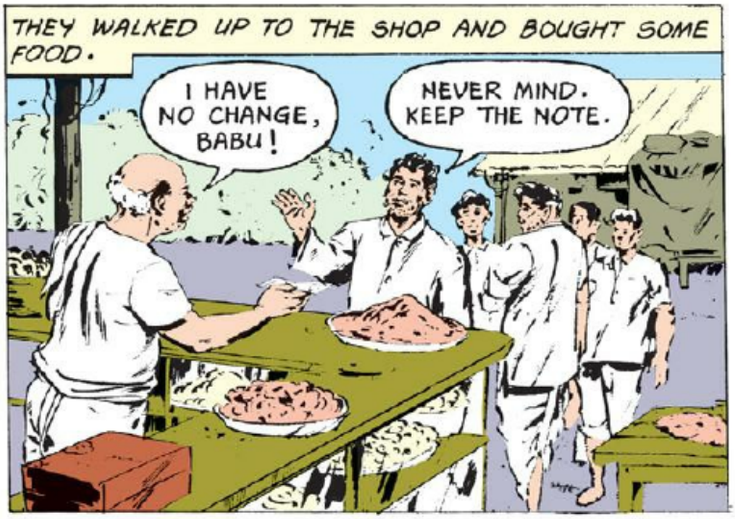

BY DAWN THE ENTIRE REGION WAS AGOG WITH THE NEWS OF THE ESCAPED DACOITS.
10,000 RUPEES IF ANYONE CATCHES THEM.
I COULD USE THAT MONEY.

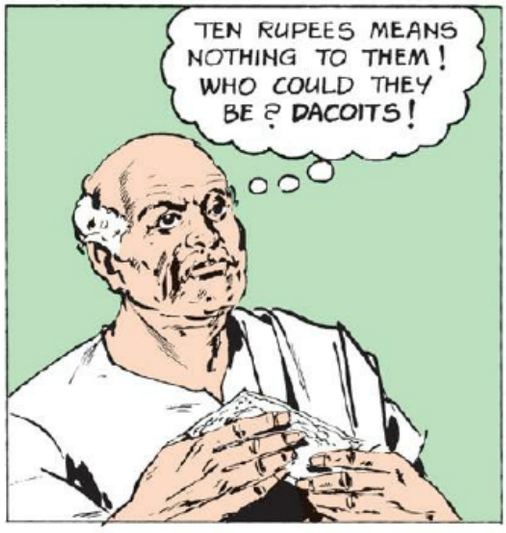
JUST THEN JATIN AND HIS COMPANIONS ARRIVED THERE AFTER AN ARDUOUS TREK.
WILL YOU KINDLY TAKE US ACROSS THE RIVER?
DA... DACOITS!


A CROWD SOON COLLECTED ON THE BANKS.
BELIEVE US, FRIENDS. WE ARE NOT DACOITS. PLEASE FERRY US ACROSS.
YOU LIARS!
CHEAT ME OF MY 10,000 RUPEES, WILL YOU?

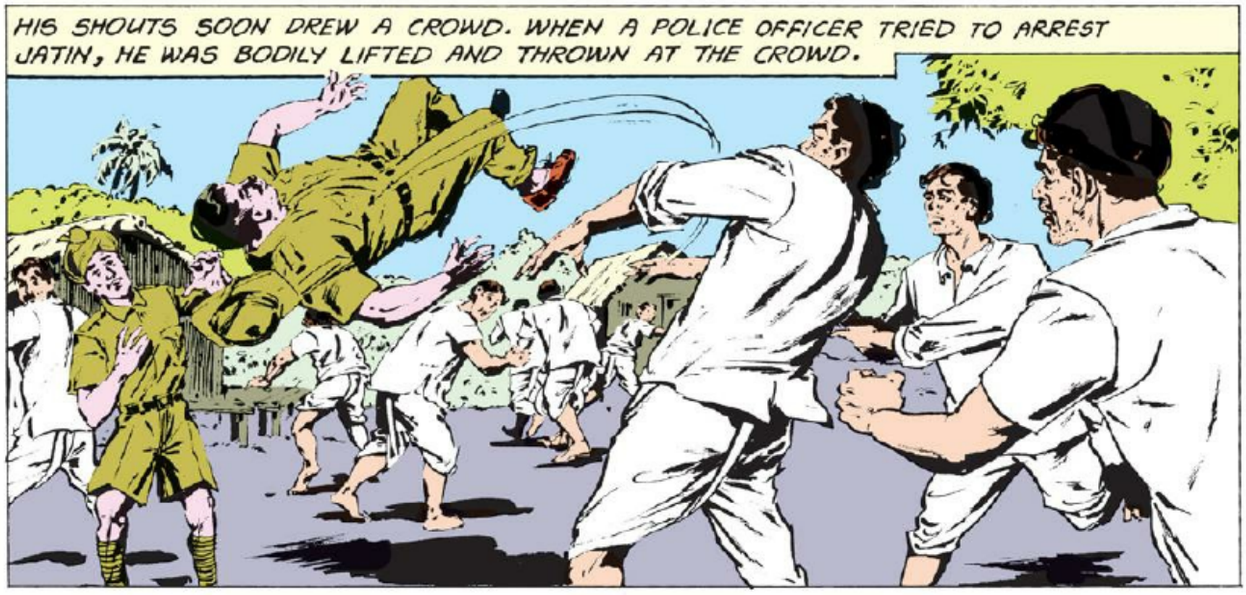
JUST THEN MANORANJAN FIRED A FEW BLANK SHOTS.
DON'T TRY TO STOP THEM! THEY'LL KILL US.
LET THEM GO.


THE FIVE WALKED A MILE. THEY HAD HAD NEITHER FOOD NOR SLEEP FOR MORE THAN SIXTY HOURS. SUDDENLY —
LOOK!


THEY WALKED UP TO THE SHOP AND BOUGHT SOME FOOD.
I HAVE NO CHANGE, BABU!
NEVER MIND. KEEP THE NOTE.

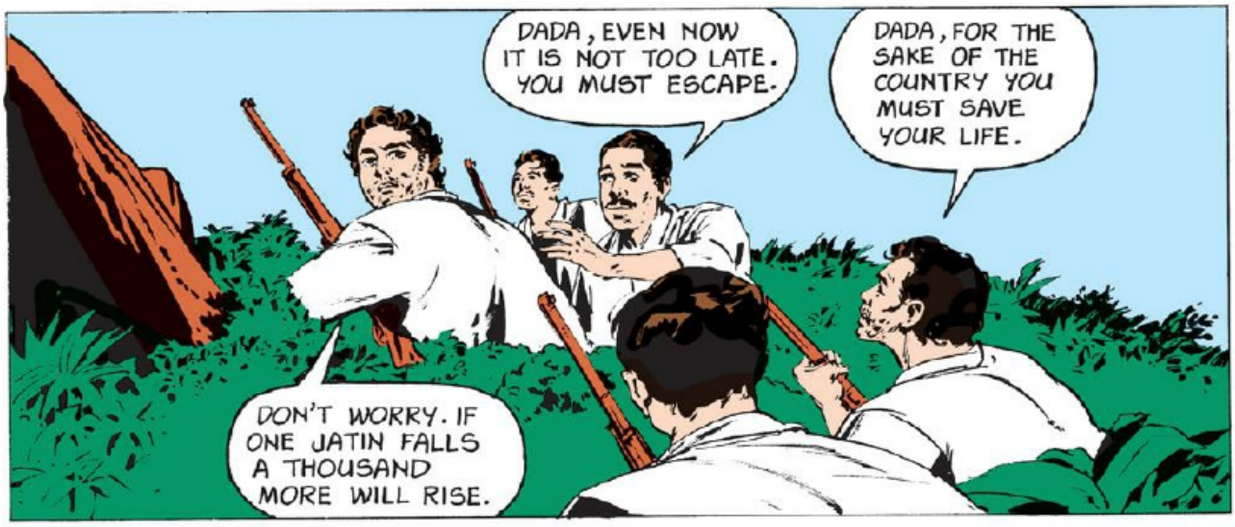

TEN RUPEES MEANS NOTHING TO THEM! WHO COULD THEY BE? DACOITS!

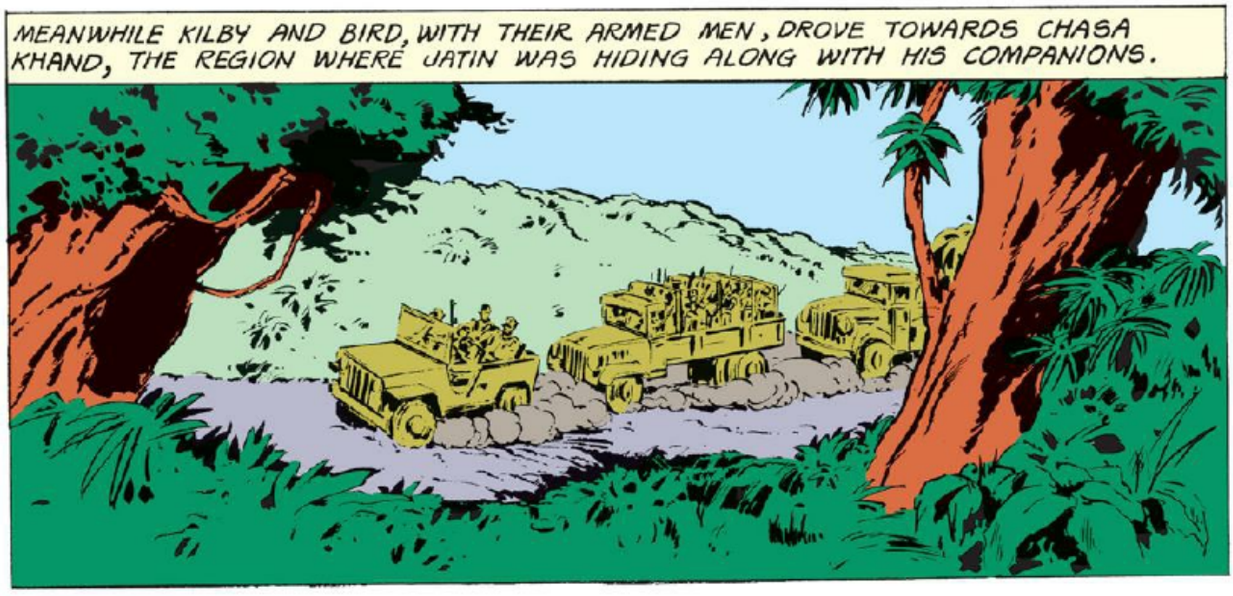
DACOITS! DACOITS!


HIS SHOUTS SOON DREW A CROWD. WHEN A POLICE OFFICER TRIED TO ARREST JATIN, HE WAS BODILY LIFTED AND THROWN AT THE CROWD.

IN THE COMMOTION THAT ENSUED, THEY ESCAPED AND SWAM ACROSS THE RIVER, HOLDING THEIR AMMUNITION HIGH.

WHEN THEY REACHED THE OPPOSITE BANK—
DO YOU SEE THAT HILLOCK? THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIGHT OUR LAST BATTLE.


DADA, EVEN NOW IT IS NOT TOO LATE. YOU MUST ESCAPE.
DADA, FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY YOU MUST SAVE YOUR LIFE.
DON'T WORRY. IF ONE JATIN FALLS A THOUSAND MORE WILL RISE.

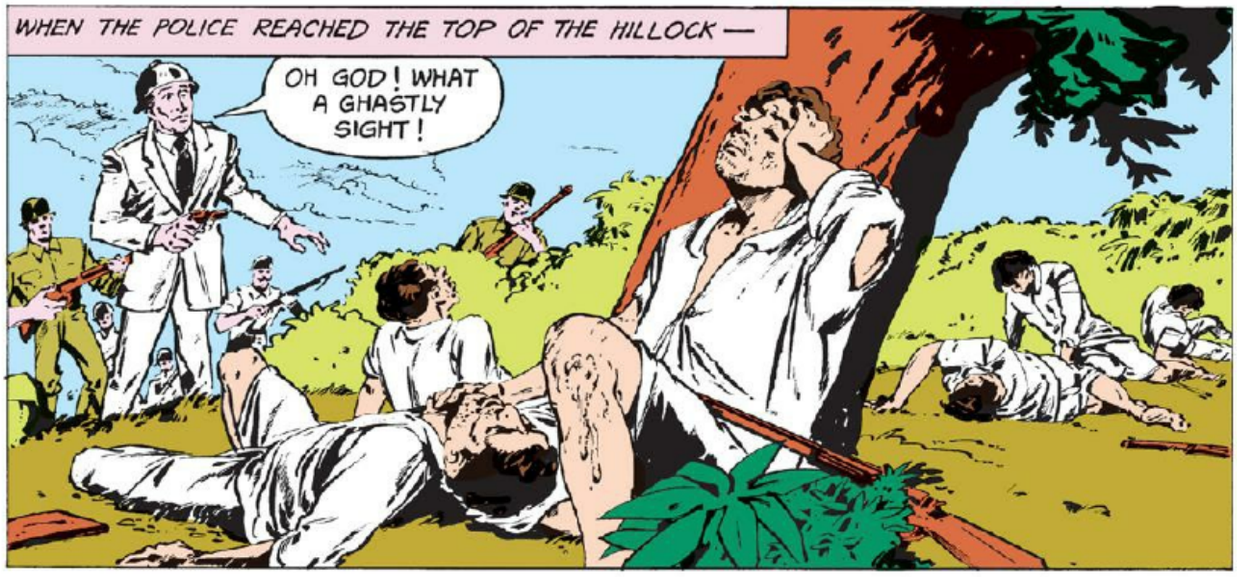

MEANWHILE KILBY AND BIRD, WITH THEIR ARMED MEN, DROVE TOWARDS CHASA KHAND, THE REGION WHERE JATIN WAS HIDING ALONG WITH HIS COMPANIONS.

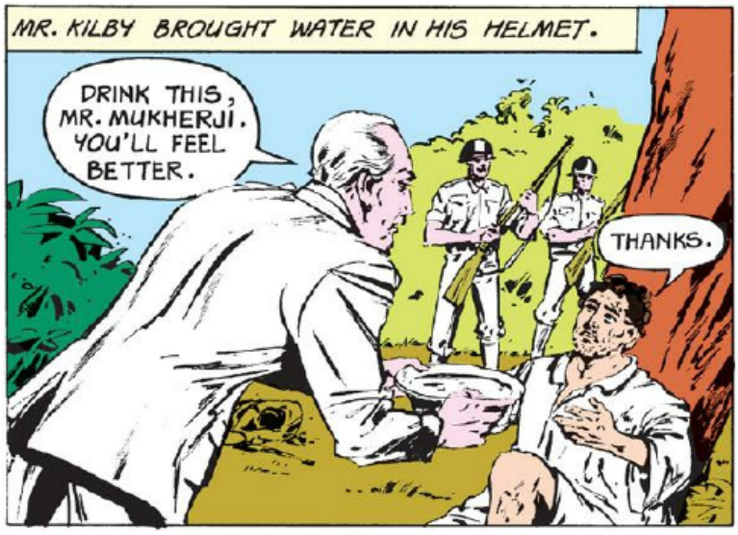
THE POLICE PARTY ADVANCED, SHOOTING THEIR WAY FORWARD.
WHY DON'T THEY RESPOND?
PERHAPS THEY HAVE NO BULLETS.

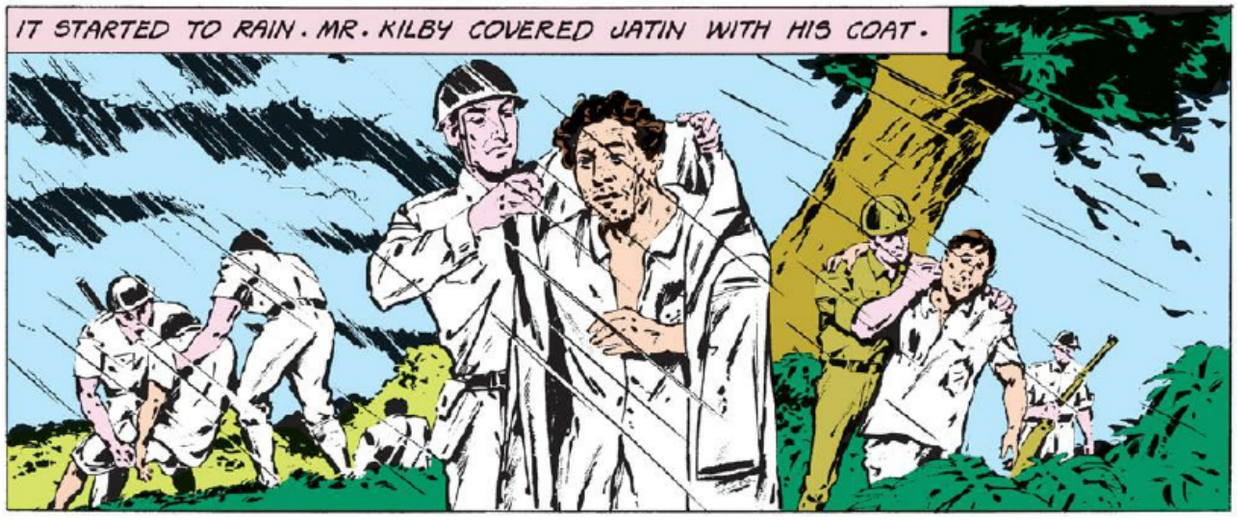
BUT THE POLICE WERE MISTAKEN. THE NEXT MOMENT —
AH!

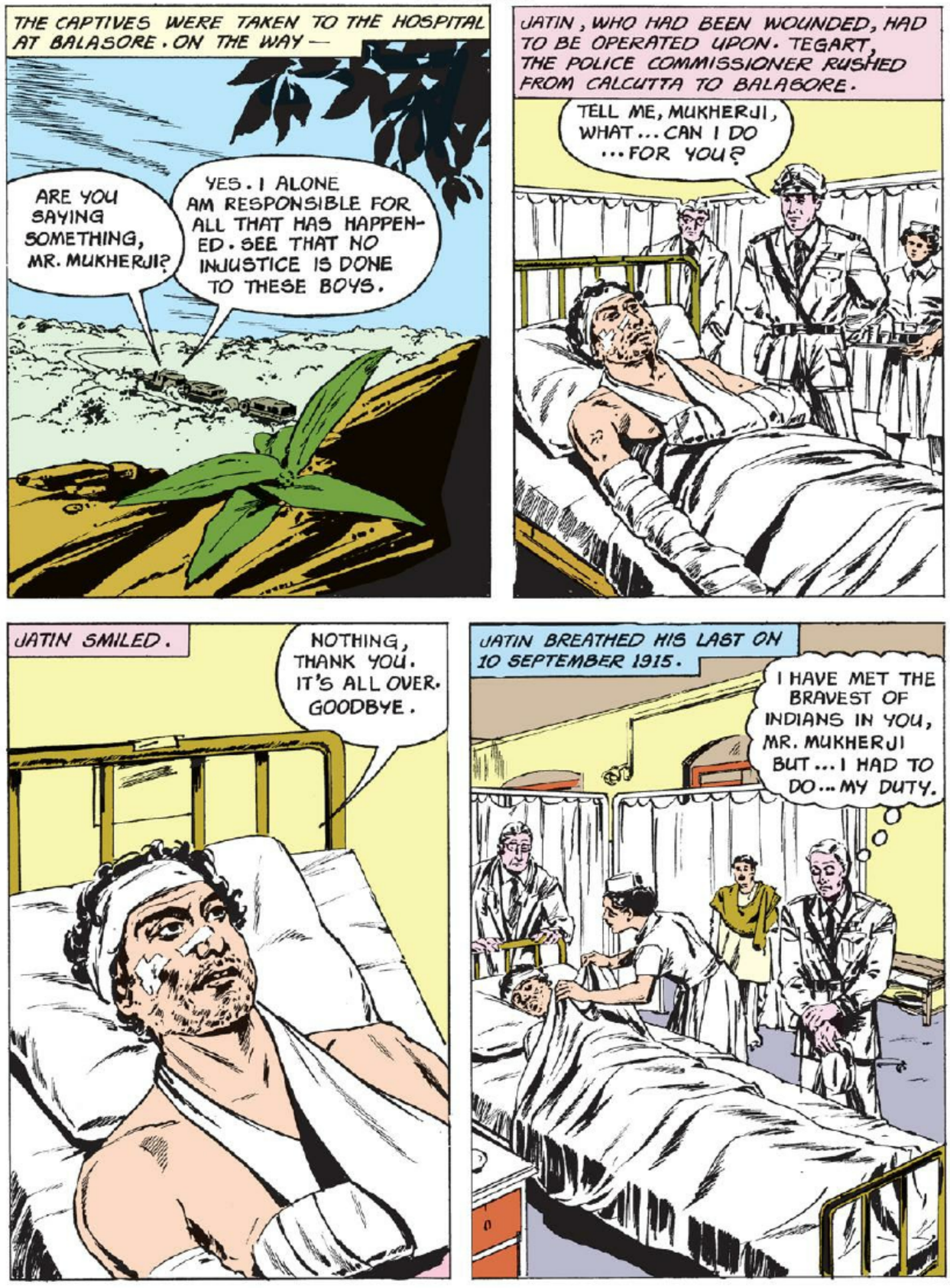
THE POLICE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES. CHITTAPRIYA WAS SHOT DEAD. JATIN DREW HIS DEAD COMPANION'S HEAD ONTO HIS LAP AND CONTINUED TO SHOOT.

SUDDENLY ALL WAS QUIET.
I THINK THEY HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR BULLETS.


WHEN THE POLICE REACHED THE TOP OF THE HILLOCK —
OH GOD! WHAT A GHASTLY SIGHT!


MR. KILBY BROUGHT WATER IN HIS HELMET.
DRINK THIS, MR. MUKHERJI. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
THANKS.


IT STARTED TO RAIN. MR. KILBY COVERED JATIN WITH HIS COAT.


THE CAPTIVES WERE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL AT BALASORE. ON THE WAY —
ARE YOU SAYING SOMETHING, MR. MUKHERJI?
YES. I ALONE AM RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED. SEE THAT NO INJUSTICE IS DONE TO THESE BOYS.
JATIN, WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED, HAD TO BE OPERATED UPON. TEGART, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER RUSHED FROM CALCUTTA TO BALASORE.
TELL ME, MUKHERJI, WHAT... CAN I DO ...FOR YOU?
JATIN SMILED.
NOTHING, THANK YOU. IT'S ALL OVER. GOODBYE.
JATIN BREATHED HIS LAST ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1915.
I HAVE MET THE BRAVEST OF INDIANS IN YOU, MR. MUKHERJI BUT... I HAD TO DO... MY DUTY.

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Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
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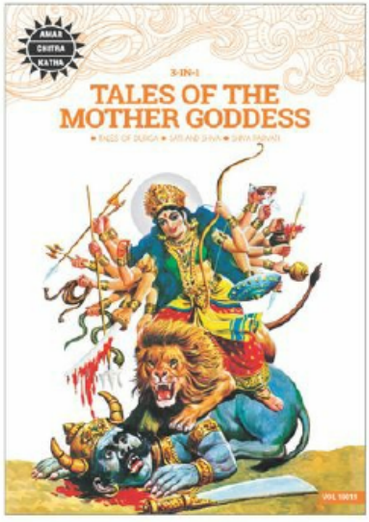

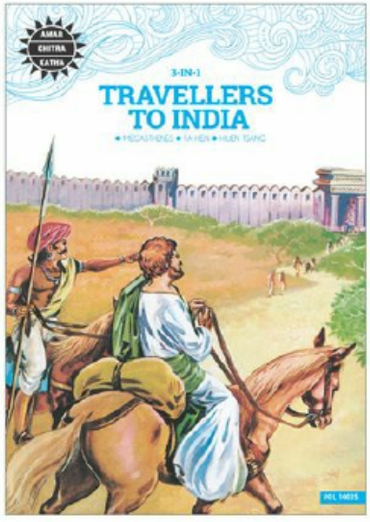

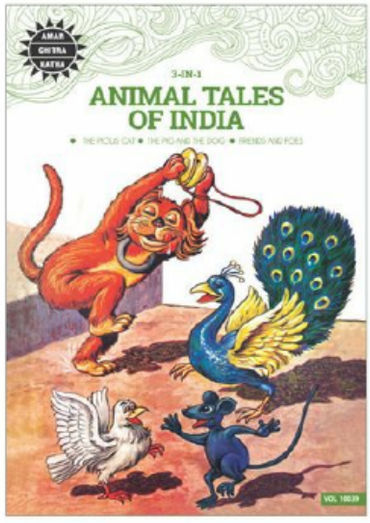

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